VISIT…

BASTIEN PIANO BASICS

THEORY

LEVEL 1

BY JAMES BASTIEN

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*To reinforce the feeling of achievement, the teacher or student may put a √ when the page has been completed.

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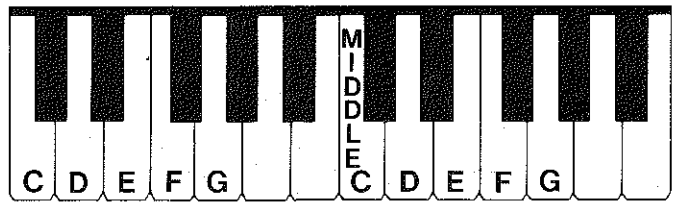
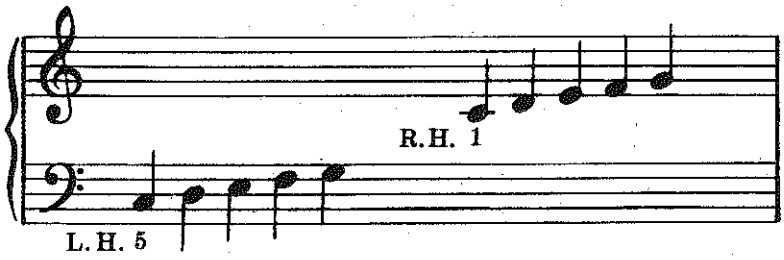
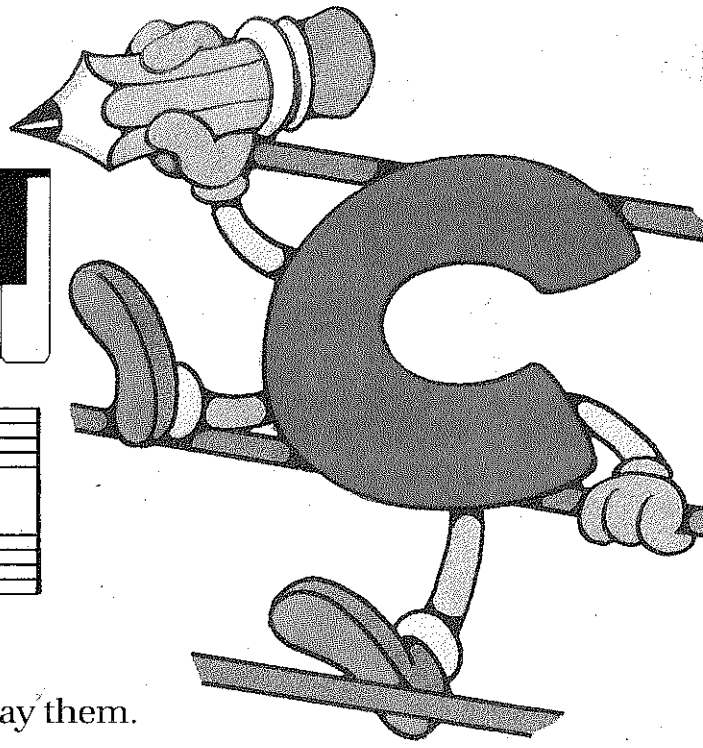
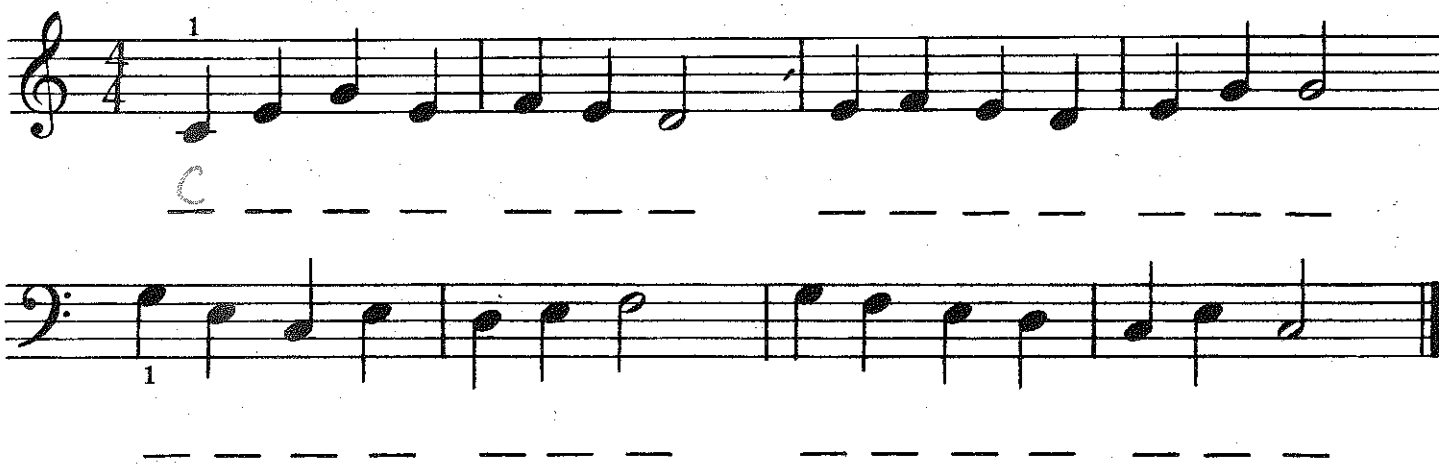
C Major Position





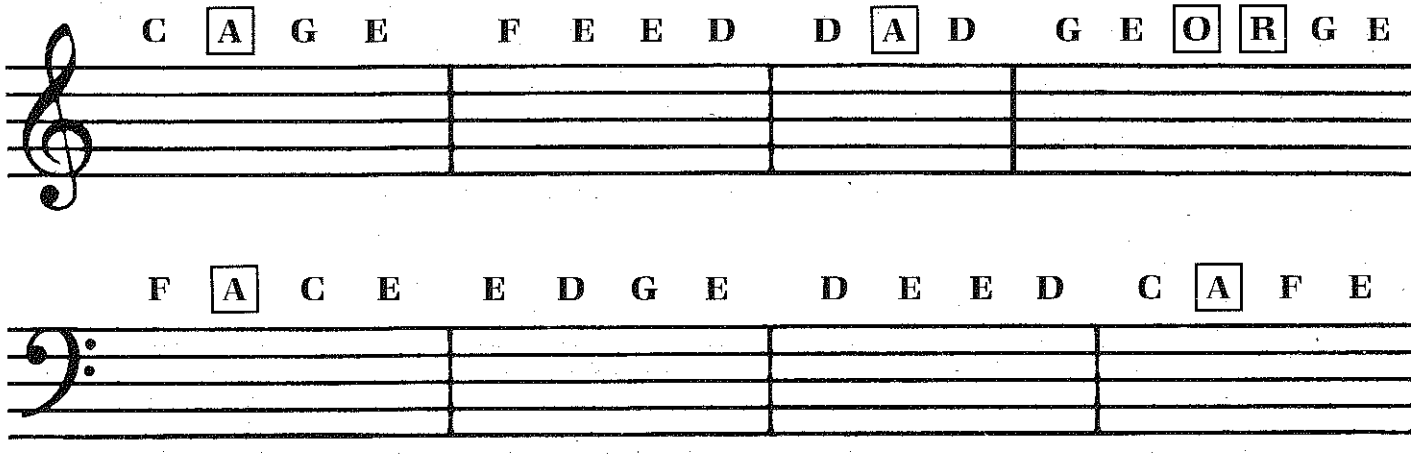


1. Write the names of these notes, then play them.



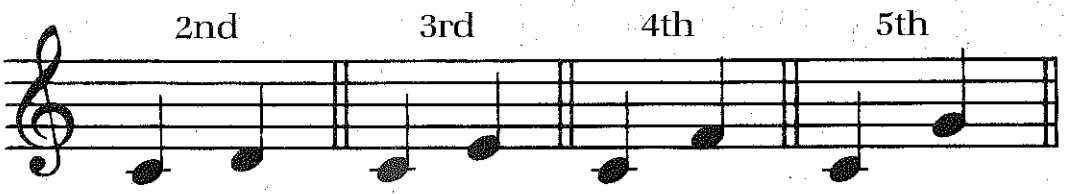
Note-Spelling Fun!

2. Draw notes below the letters **without** squares.
Use quarter or half notes. Play and name these notes.

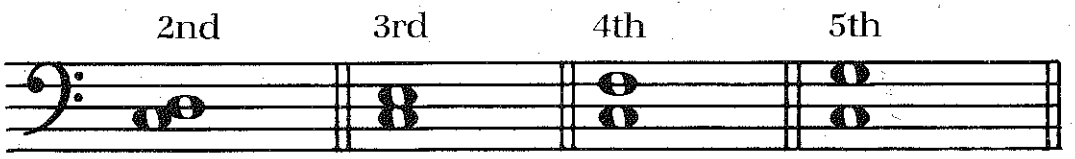


Melodic and Harmonic Intervals

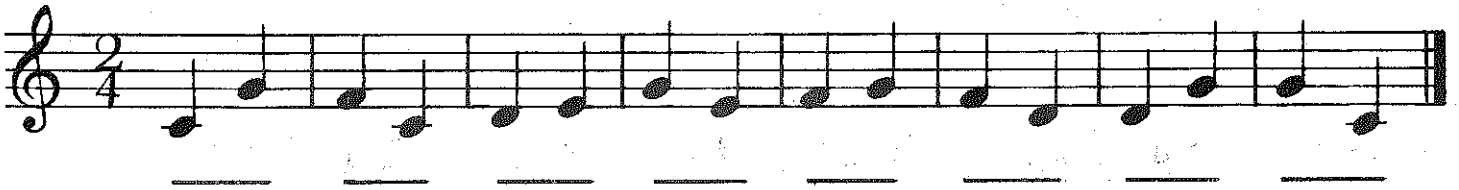
Melodic intervals have two notes that are played separately, one at a time.



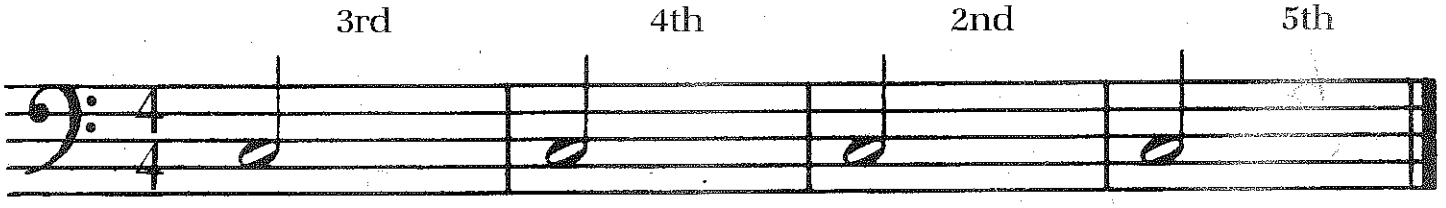
Harmonic intervals have two notes that are played together.



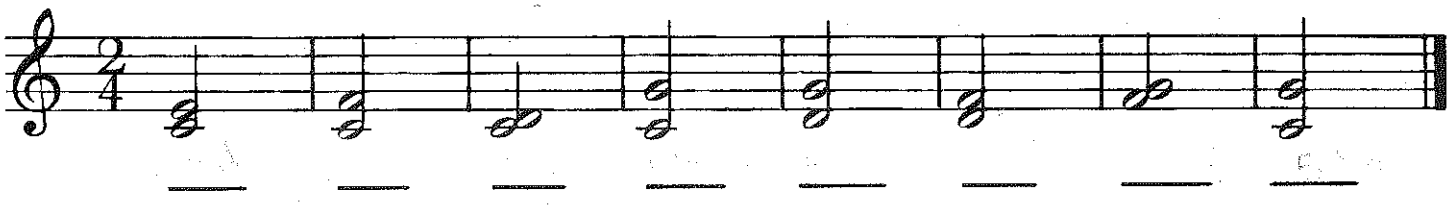
3. Write the names of these melodic intervals. Play and name these notes.



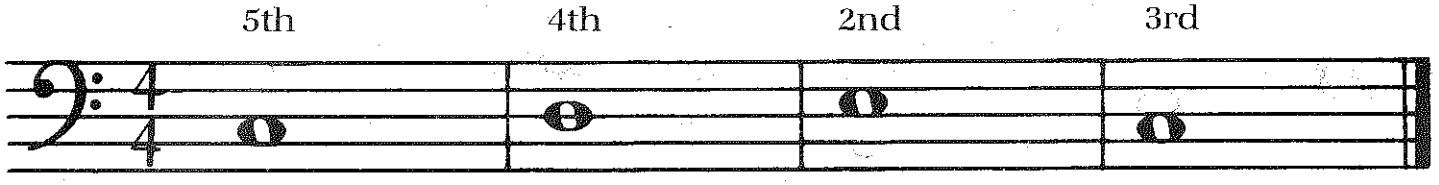
4. Draw a half note after the one given to form a melodic interval, then play each one.



5. Write the names of these harmonic intervals, then play them.



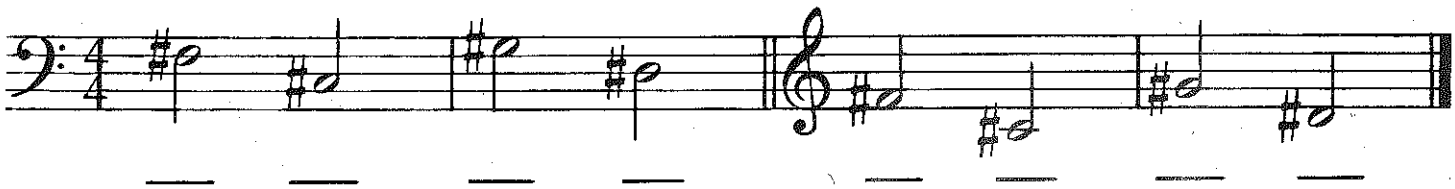
6. Draw a whole note above the one given to form a harmonic interval, then play each one.



Sharp Sign ♯

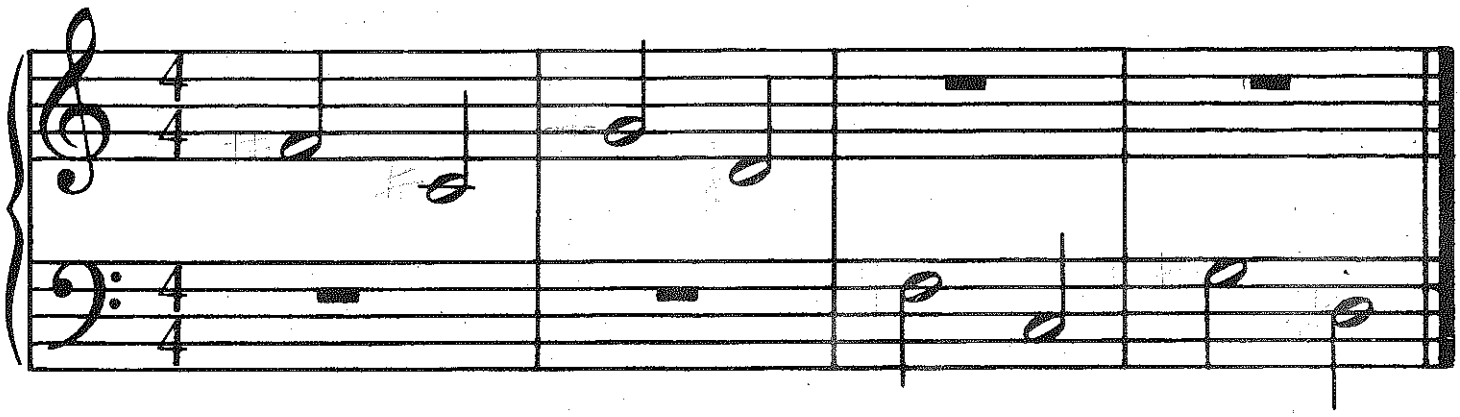
The **sharp sign** before a note means to play the next key to the **right**.

7. Write the names of these sharp notes, then play them.

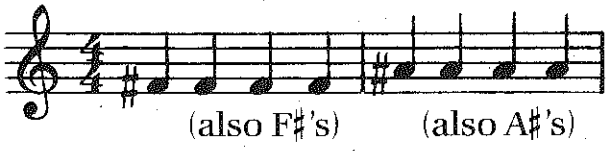


The "square" in the middle of the sharp sign is placed on a **line** or in a **space**.

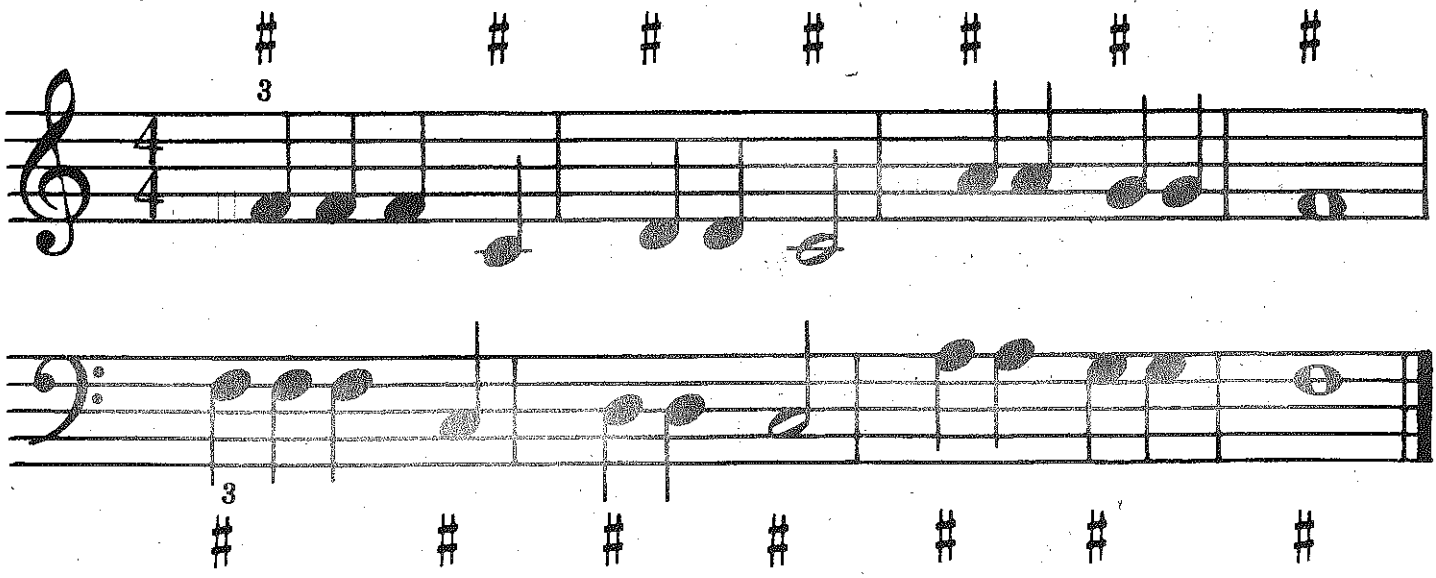
8. Draw a sharp sign before each note. Play and name these notes.



The sharp sign lasts for the **whole** measure.



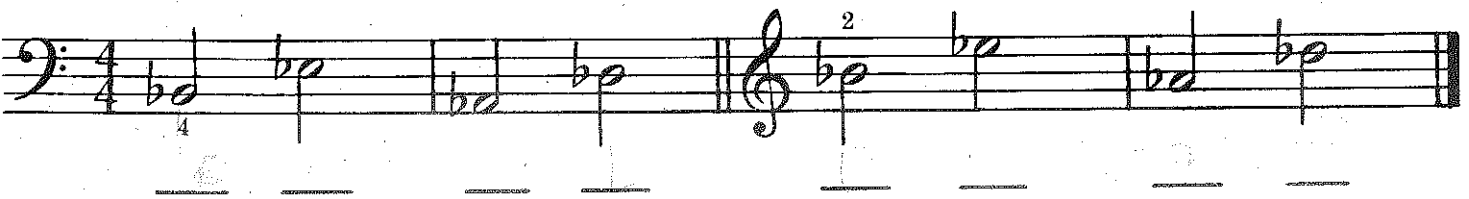
9. Draw a sharp sign before each note with a ♯ over or under it.
Play and name these notes.



Flat Sign ♭

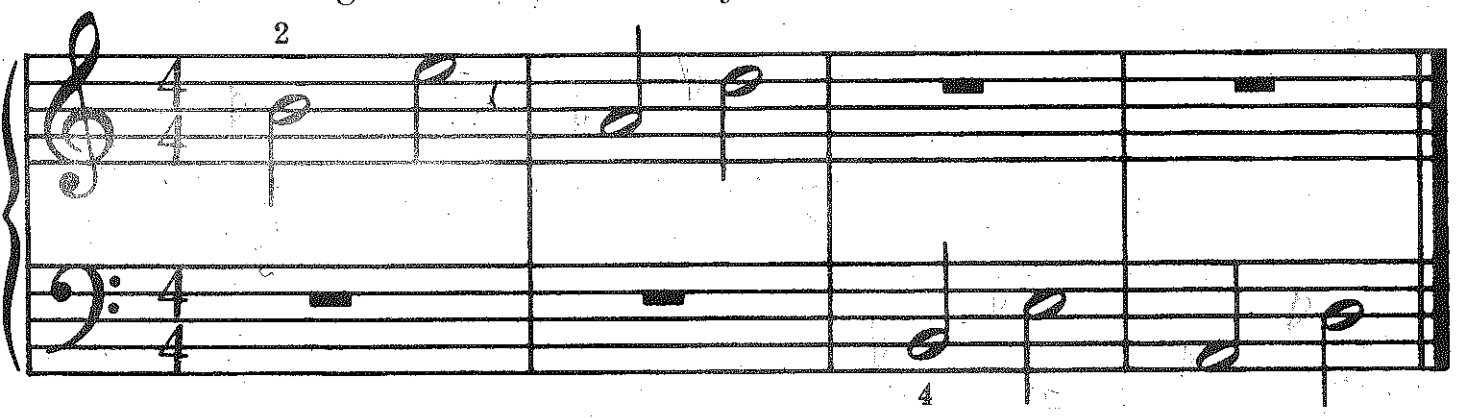
The **flat sign** before a note means to play the next key to the **left**.

10. Write the names of these flat notes, then play them.

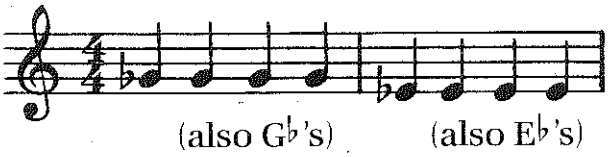


The "round" part of the flat is placed on a **line** or in a **space**.

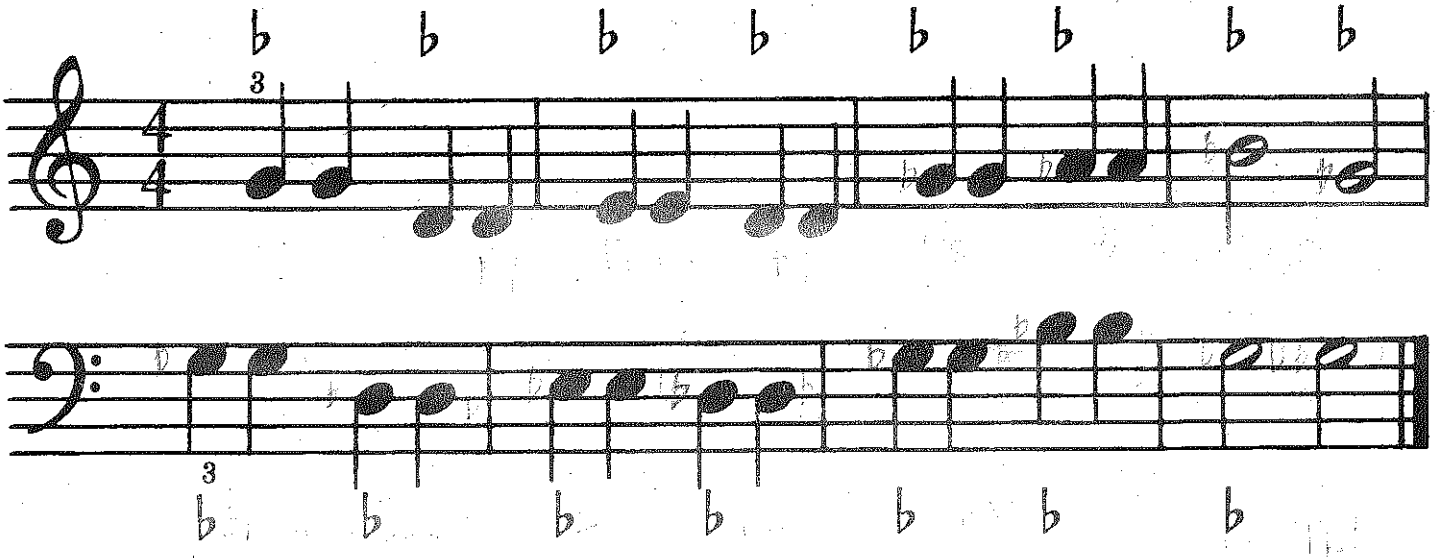
11. Draw a flat sign before each note. Play and name these notes.



The flat sign lasts for the **whole** measure.

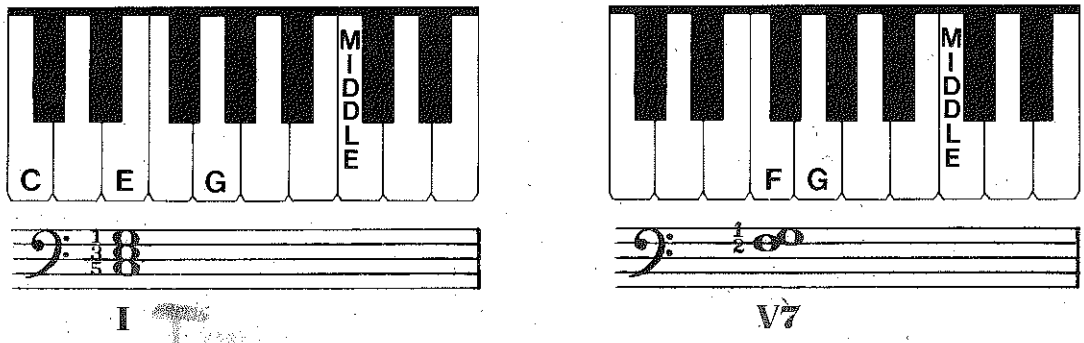


12. Draw a flat sign before each note with a ♭ over or under it.
Play and name these notes.

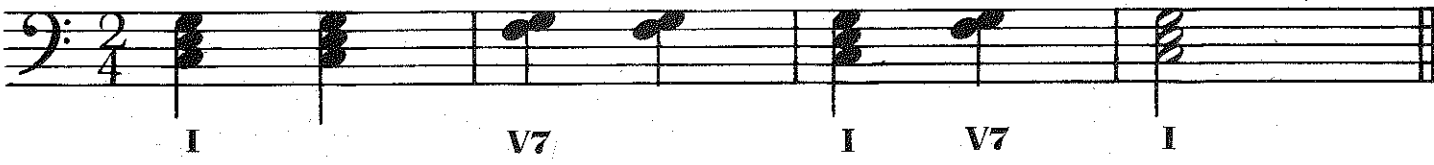


Accompaniment in C

Chords are often used to form the **accompaniment** for melodies. The two chords most often used in a key are the I (one) chord and the **V7** (five-seven) chord.*

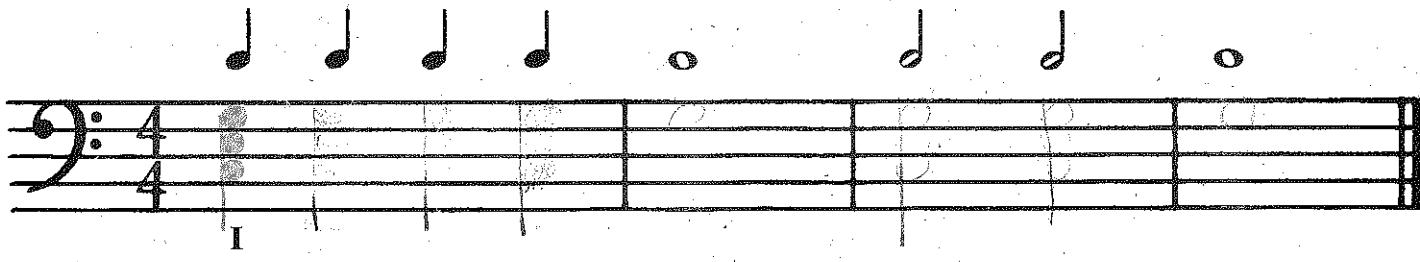


13. Play these I and V7 chords with your L.H. Count aloud while playing.

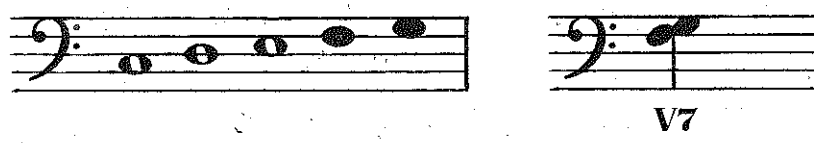


The I chord is formed from **three** notes in a 5-finger position.

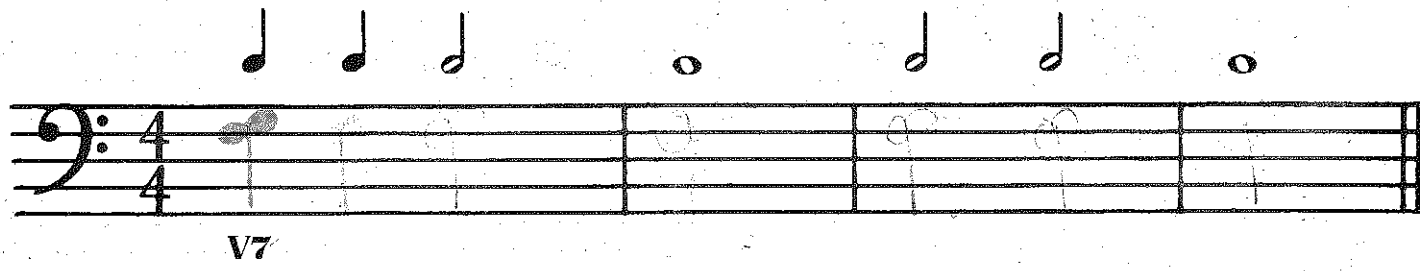
14. Draw I chords in the rhythm below. Play these chords with your L.H.



The V7 chord is formed from **two** notes in a 5-finger position.

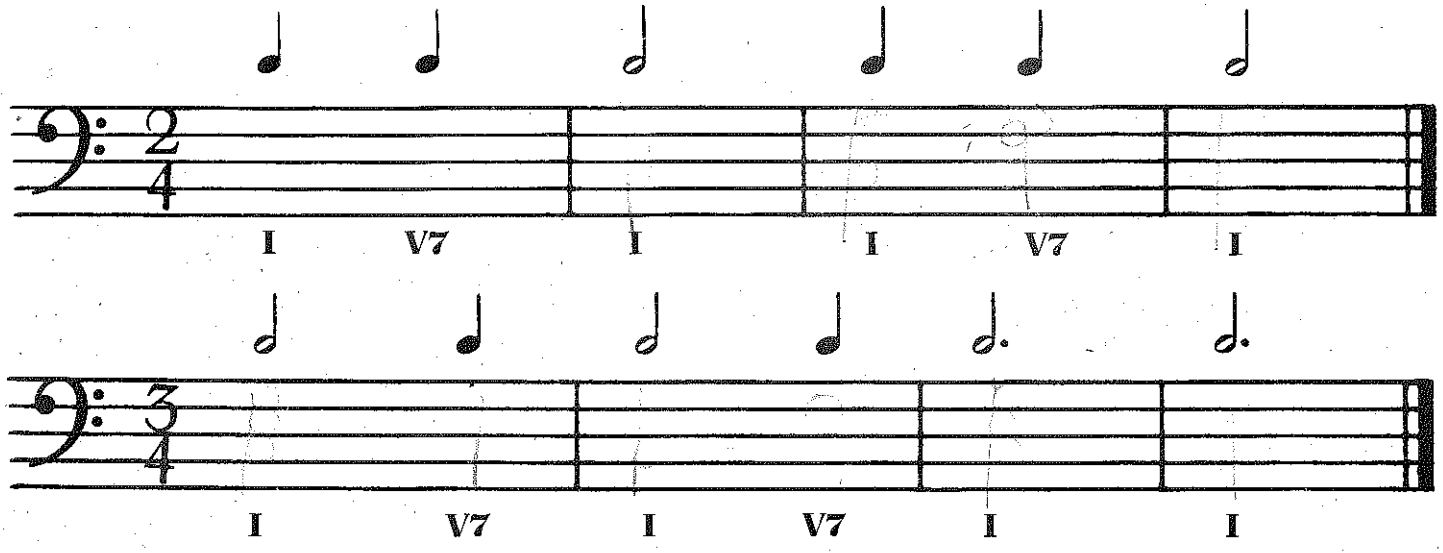


15. Draw V7 chords in the rhythm below. Play these chords with your L.H.

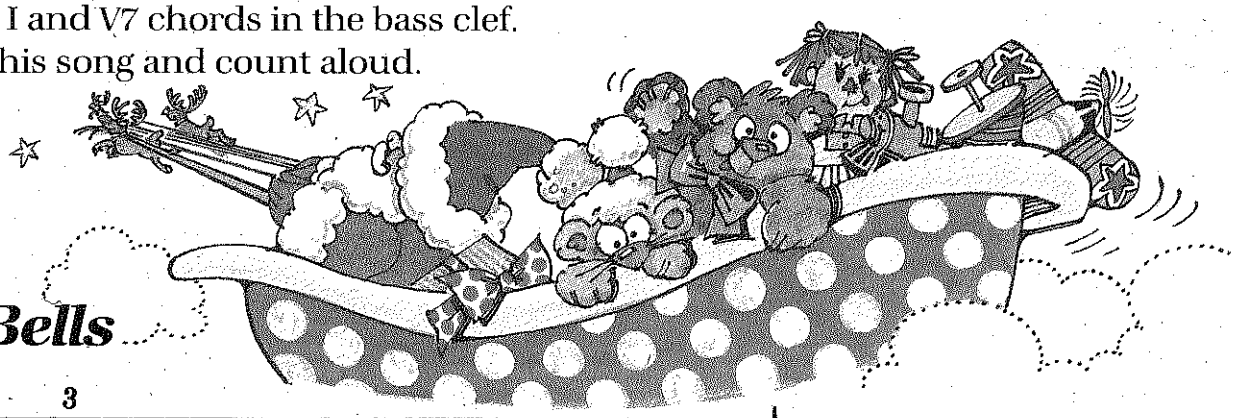


*__Teacher:__ The interval of a 2nd represents the dominant harmony at this level. In Level 2, the three-note V7 chord is introduced and explained in detail.

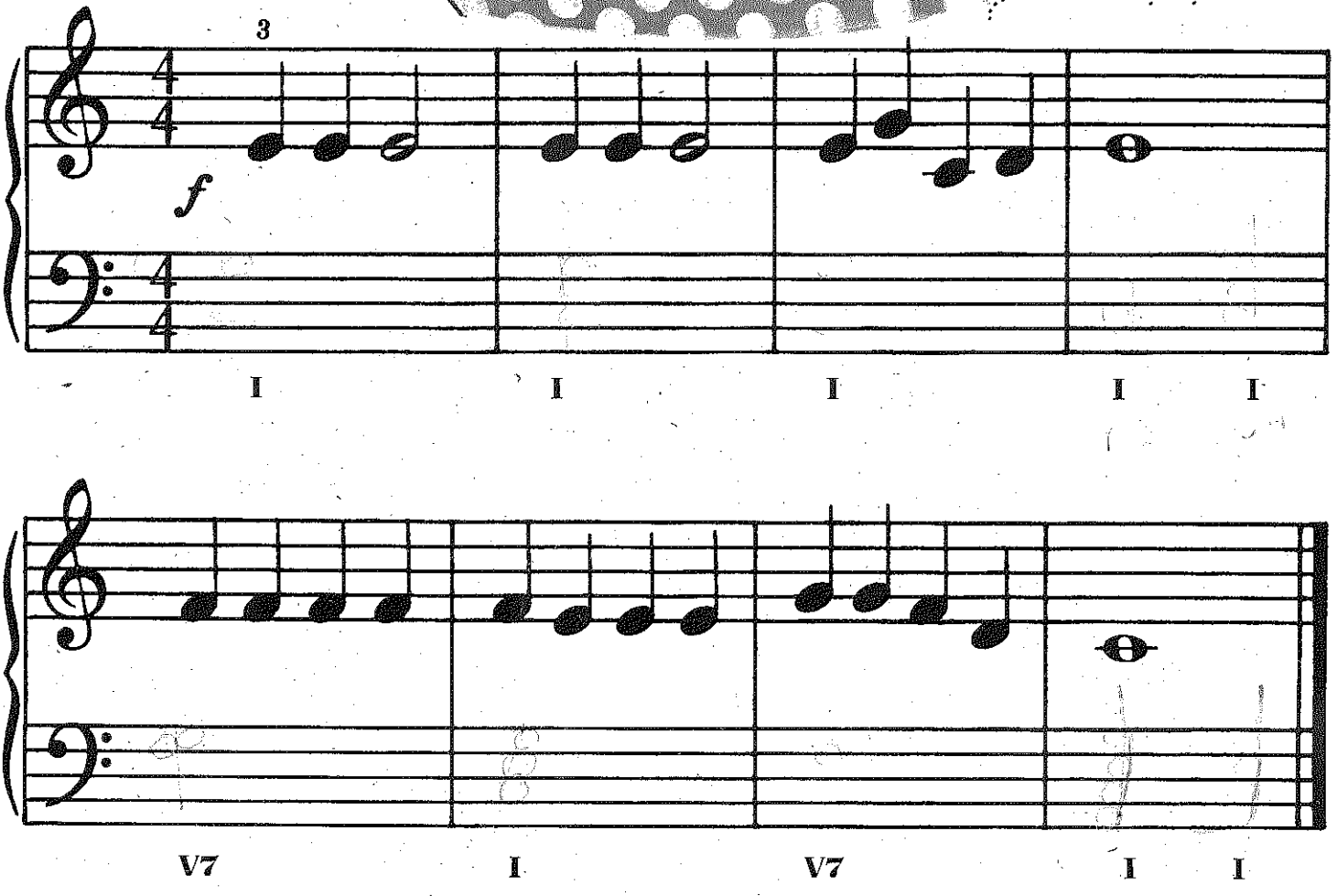
16. Draw I and V7 chords in the rhythm below. Play these chords with your L.H.



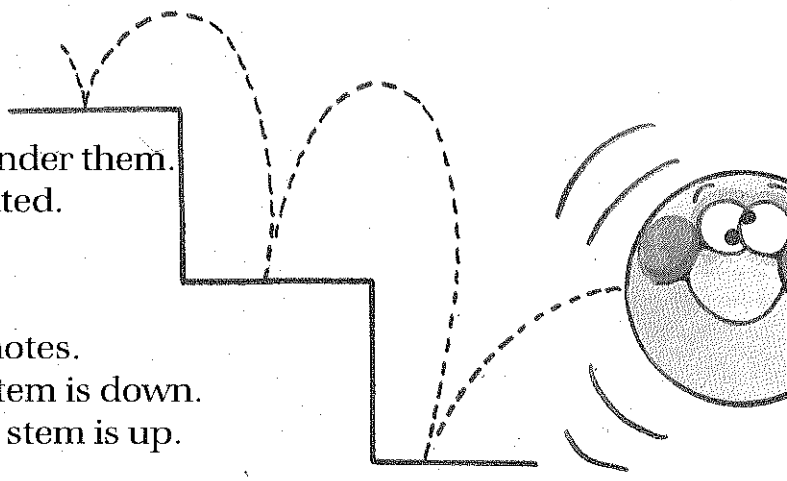
17. Draw I and V7 chords in the bass clef.
Play this song and count aloud.



Jingle Bells

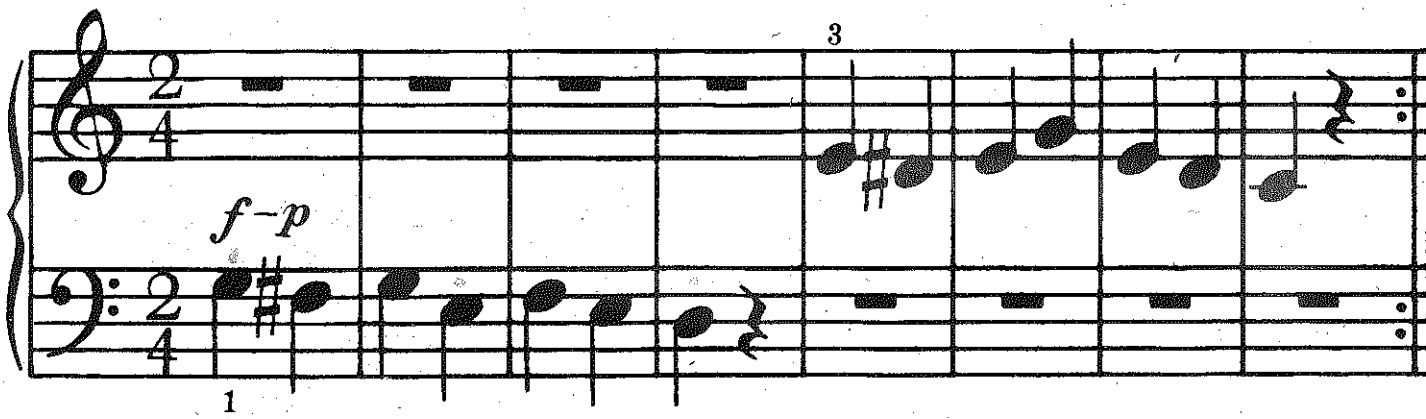


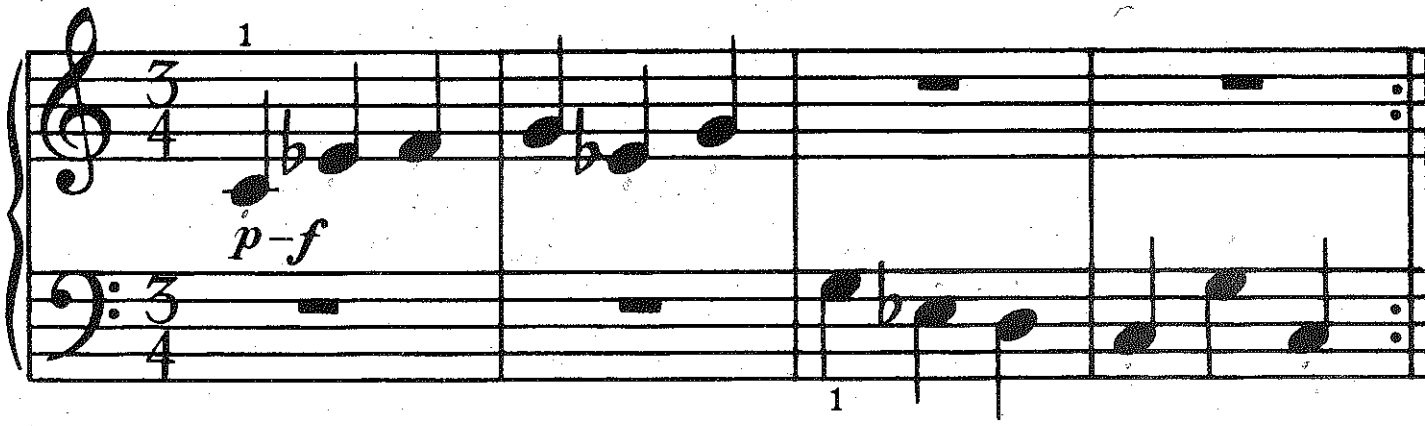
Staccato Notes

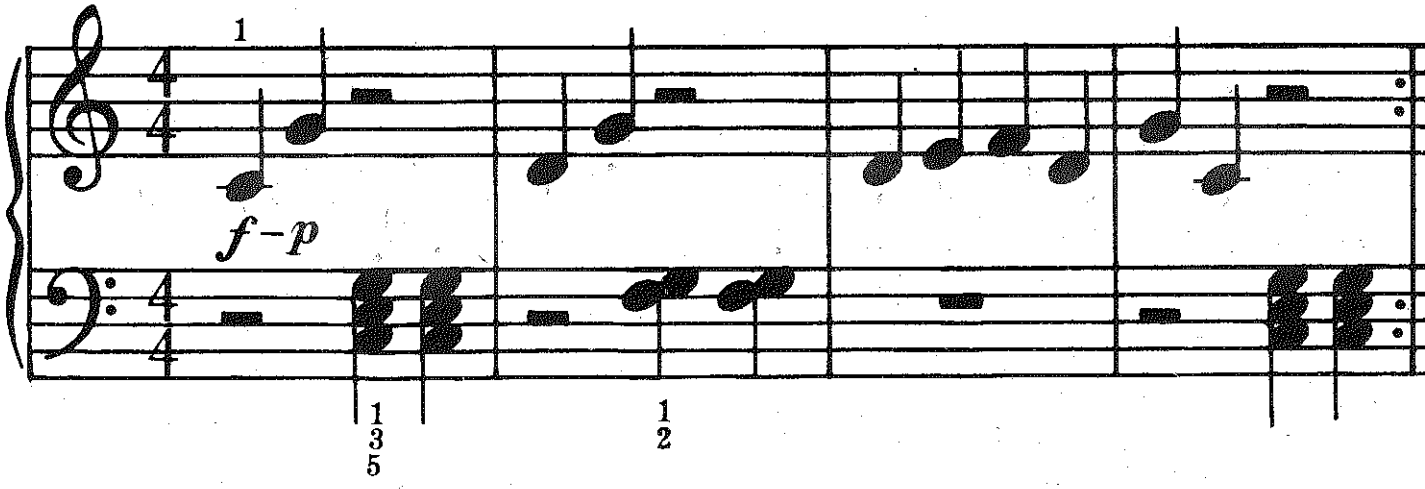


Staccato notes have a **dot** over or under them.
Play staccato notes short and separated.

18. Draw dots over or under these notes.
A dot goes **over** the note if the stem is down.
A dot goes **under** the note if the stem is up.
Play these staccato notes.







Tempo Marks

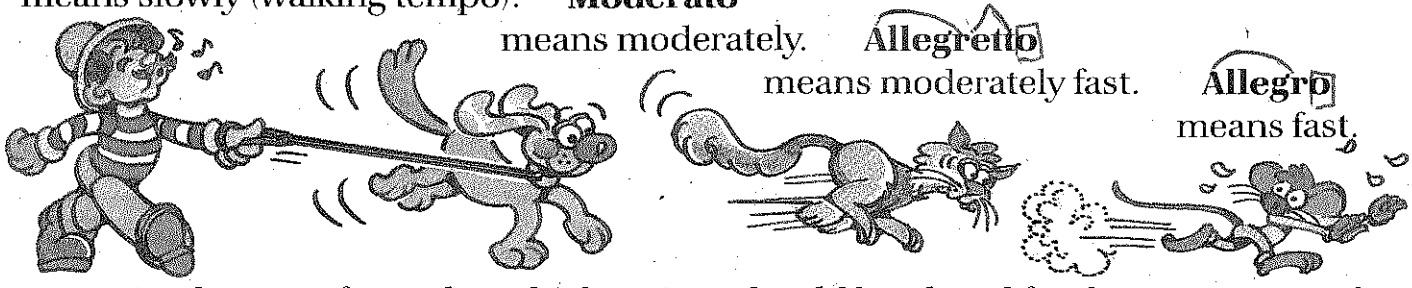
Tempo marks are placed at the beginning of a piece to tell how fast or slow a piece should be played.

Andante
means slowly (walking tempo).

Moderato
means moderately.

Allegretto
means moderately fast.

Allegro
means fast.



19. Write the rate of speed at which a piece should be played for these tempo marks. Tempo marks are usually written in Italian.

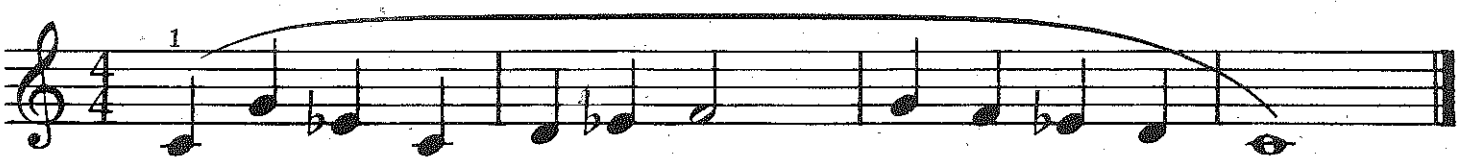
Moderato _____ Andante _____

Allegro _____ Allegretto _____

20. Read the words for each line of music. Then write a tempo mark at the beginning of each line that fits the rate of speed of the piece. Play these four pieces.

The Snail

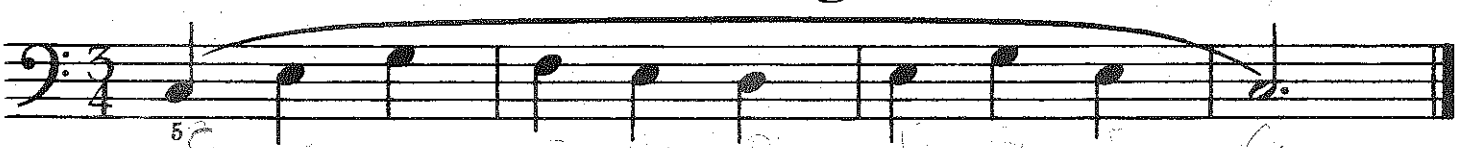
_____



Slow - ly crawls the ti - ny snail. Gee, he has no tail!

Sledding

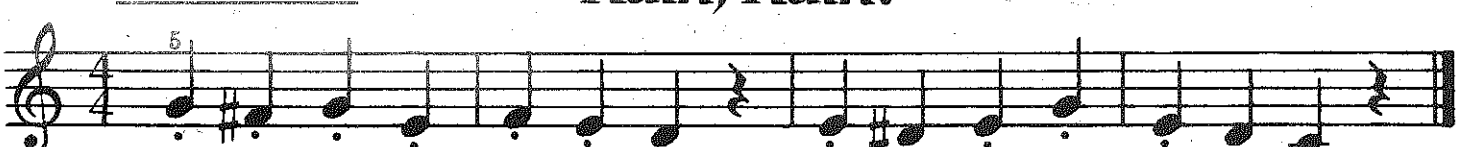
_____



Sled - ding is fun 'til snow melts in the sun.

Rain, Rain!

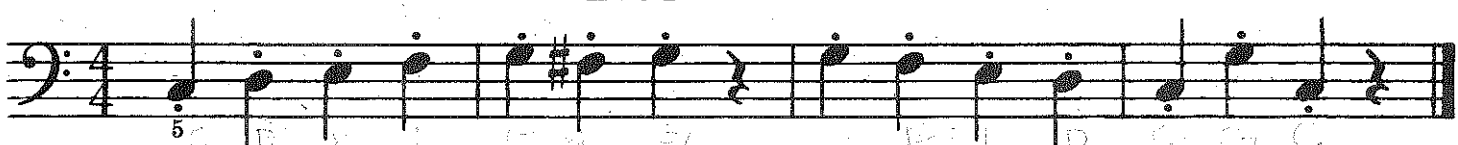
_____



It is rain - ing lots of drops. We will have to get our mops!

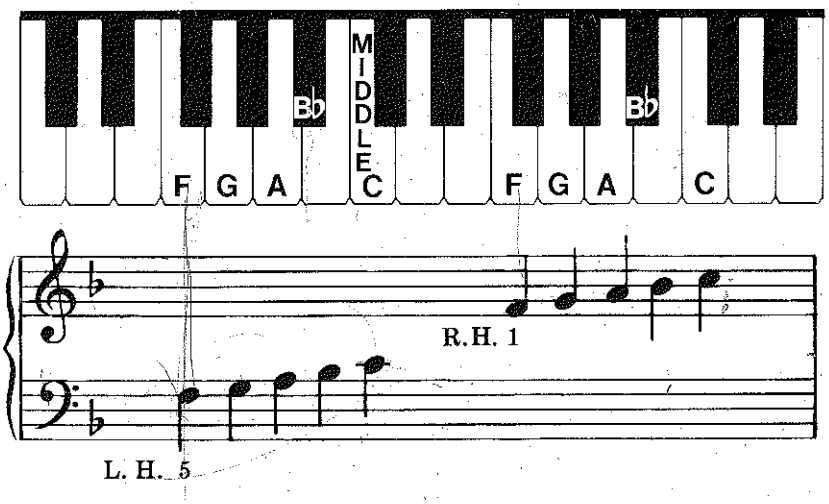
The Race

_____

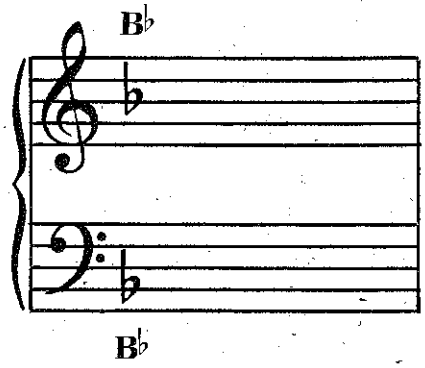


In the race I ran real fast, So I would not come in last!

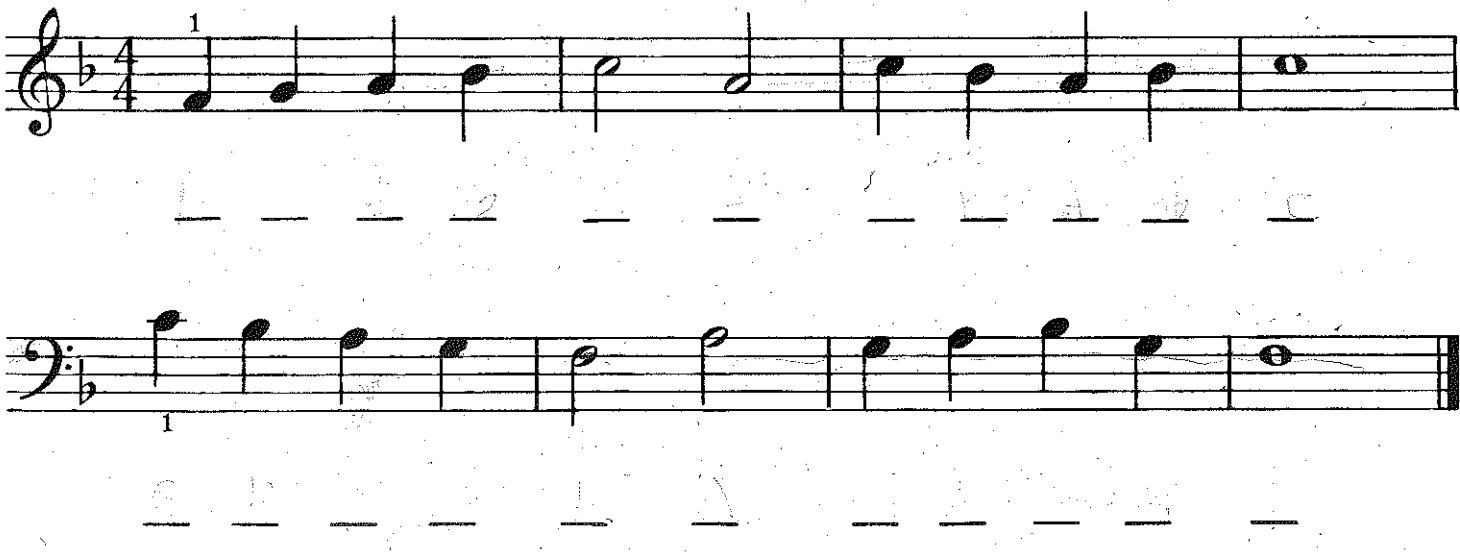
F Major Position



Key Signature for F Major

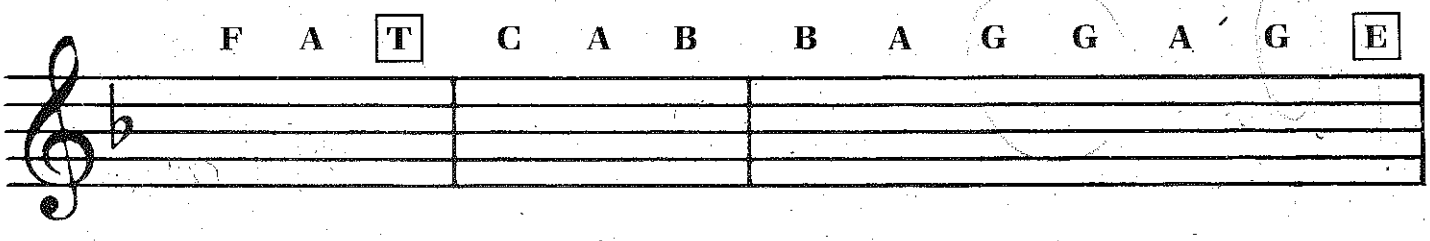


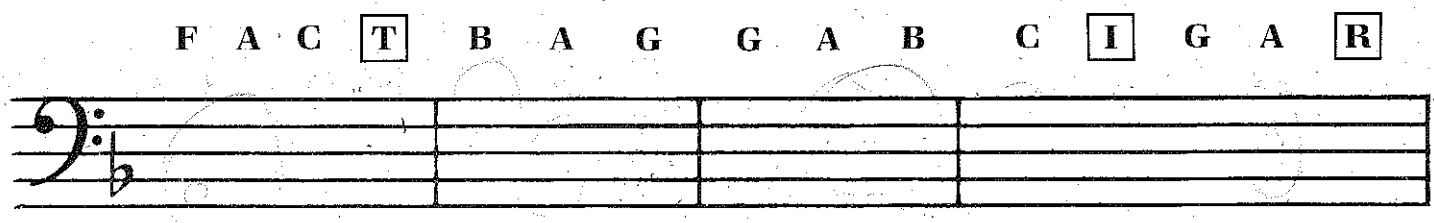
21. Write the names of these notes, then play them.



Note-Spelling Game

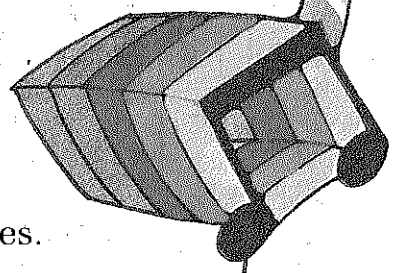
22. Draw notes below the letters **without** squares.
Use quarter, half, or whole notes. Play and name these notes.



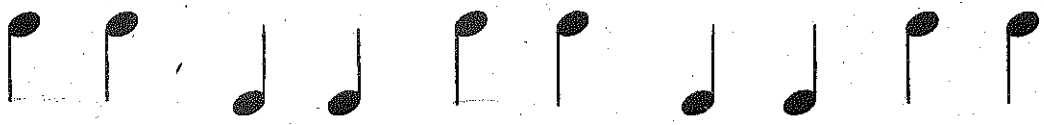


Two Eighth Notes

Two eighth notes equal one quarter note. They are connected with a **beam**.

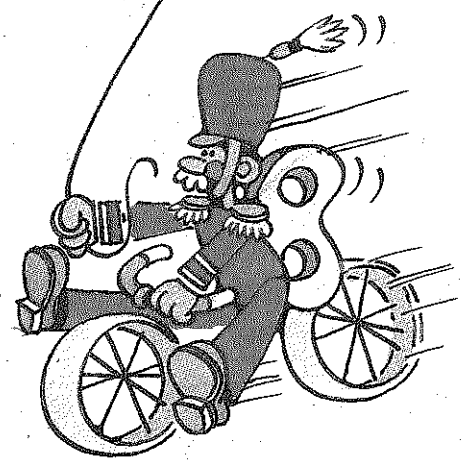


23. Add a beam to these pairs of notes to form two eighth notes.

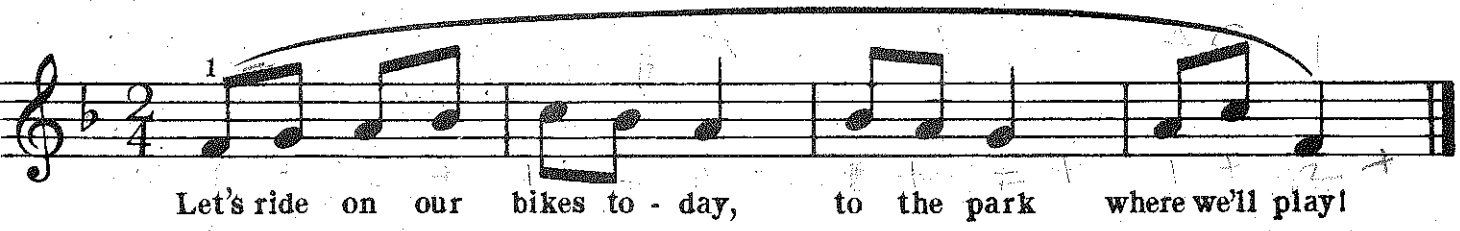


Eighth notes may be counted by saying *and* (&) after the number.

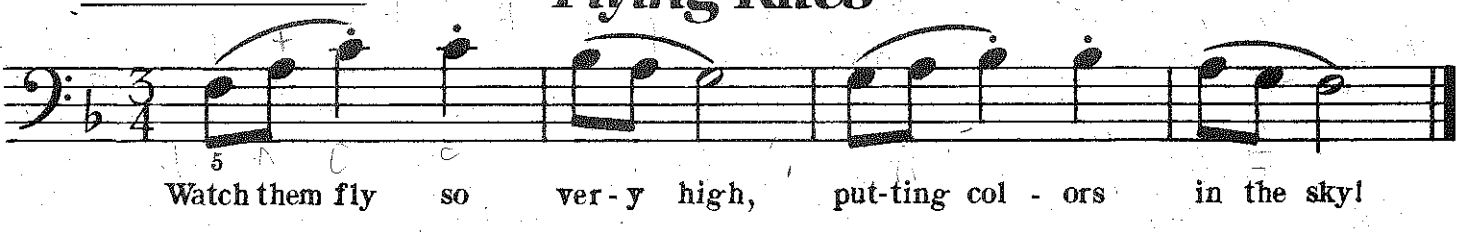
24. Write the counts below the words of each piece.
Then write a tempo mark at the beginning of each line.
Play these pieces and count aloud.



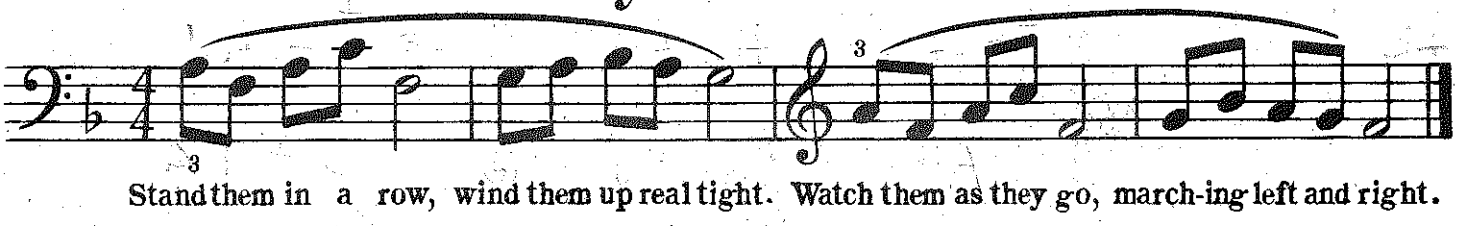
Bike Ride



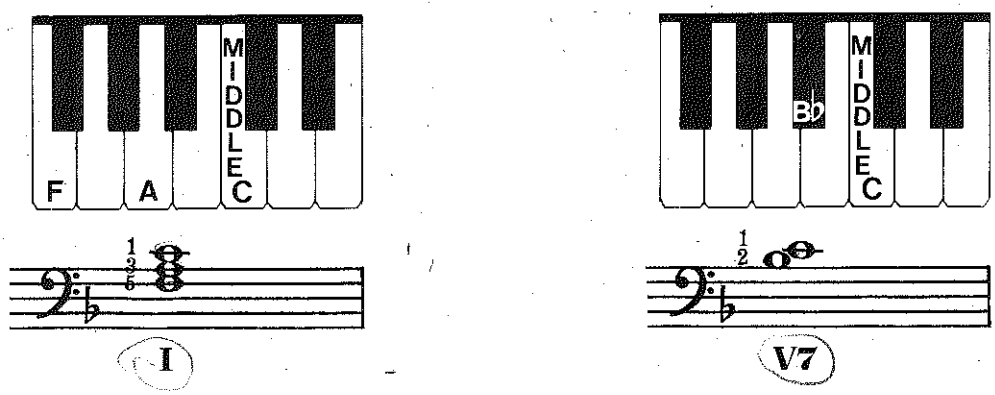
Flying Kites



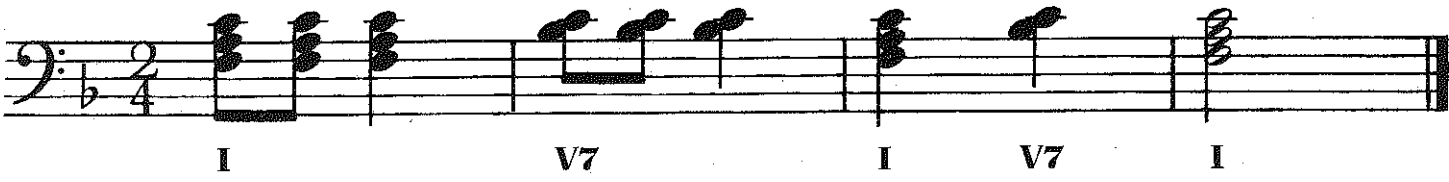
Toy Soldiers



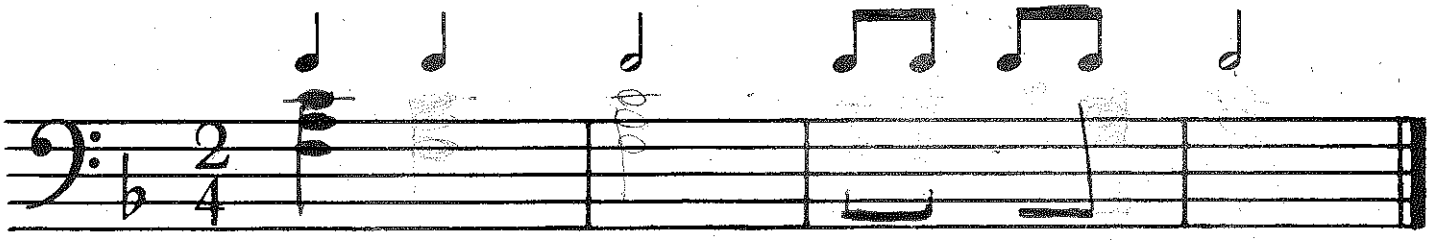
Accompaniment in F



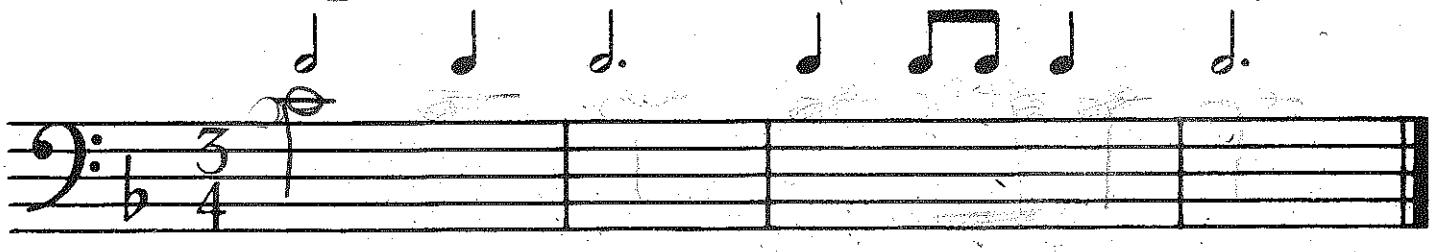
25. Play these I and V7 chords with your L.H. Count aloud while playing.



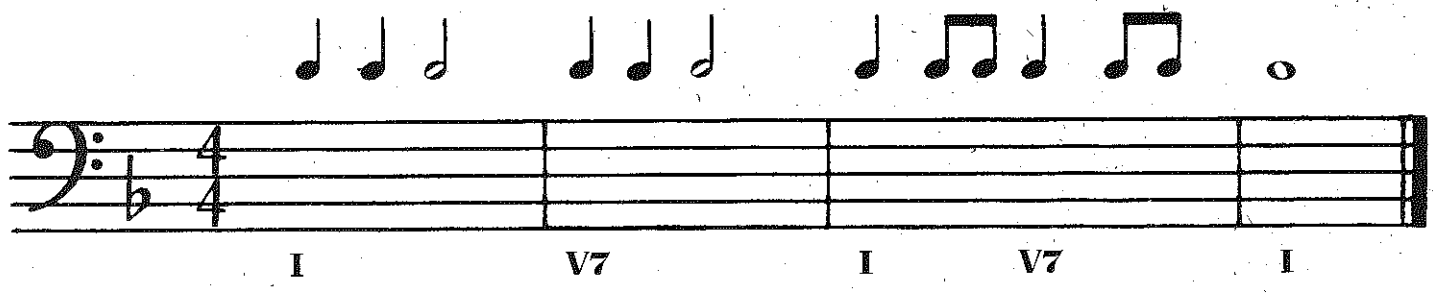
26. Draw I chords in the rhythm below. Play these chords with your L.H.



27. Draw V7 chords in the rhythm below. Play these chords with your L.H.



28. Draw I and V7 chords in the rhythm below. Play these chords with your L.H.



New Dynamics

mf
means moderately loud.
Its Italian name is *mezzo forte*.

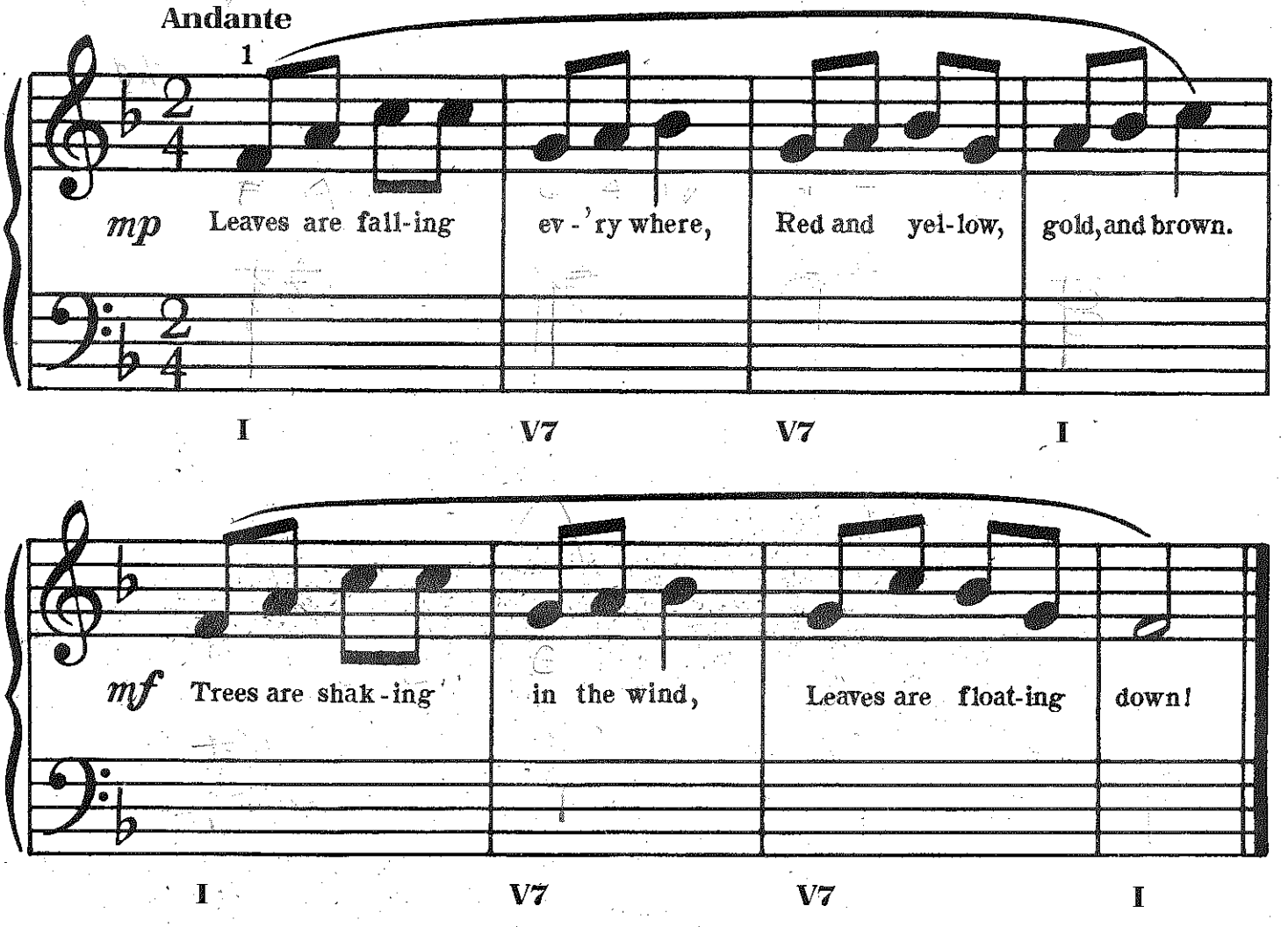
mp
means moderately soft.
Its Italian name is *mezzo piano*.

29. Trace the first two ***mf*** signs, then draw four more.

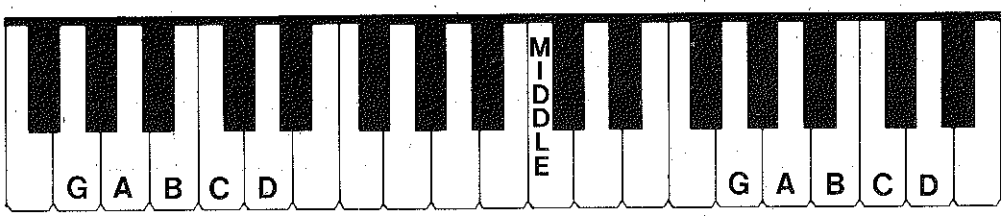
30. Trace the first two ***mp*** signs, then draw four more.

31. Draw I and V7 chords in the bass clef. Play this song and count aloud.

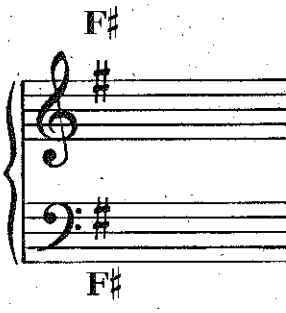
Falling Leaves

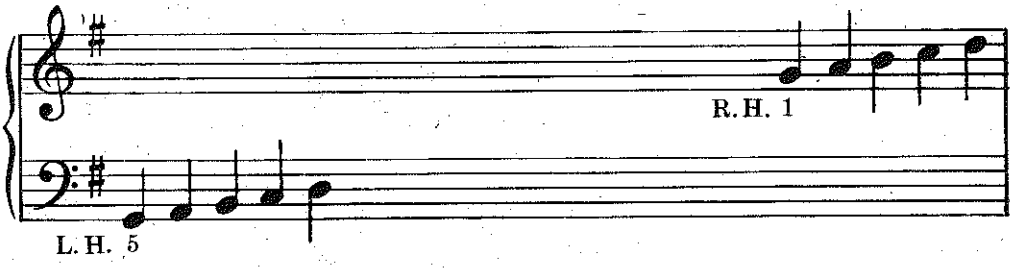


G Major Position

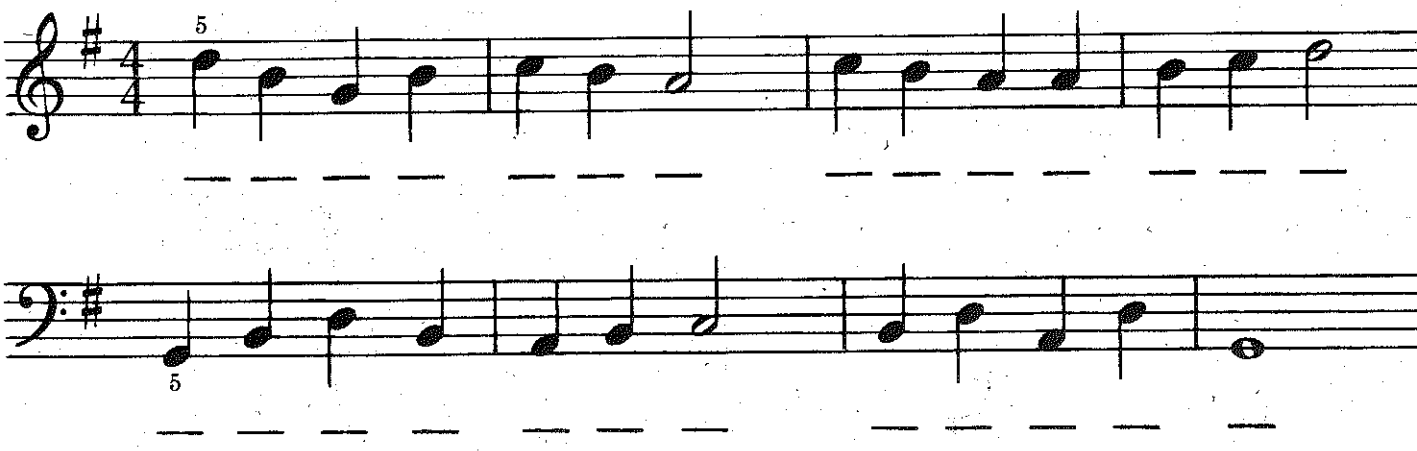


Key Signature for G Major





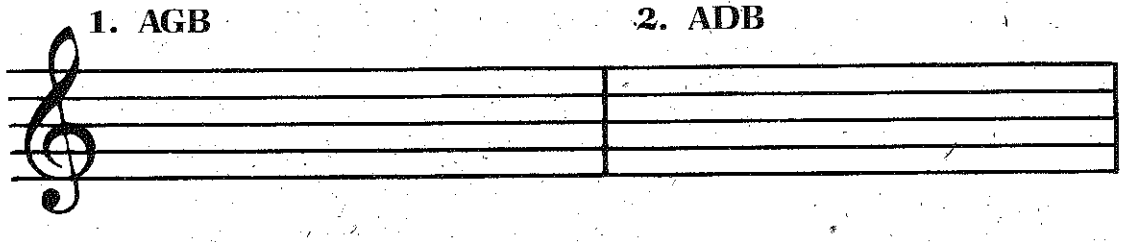
32. Write the names of these notes, then play them.



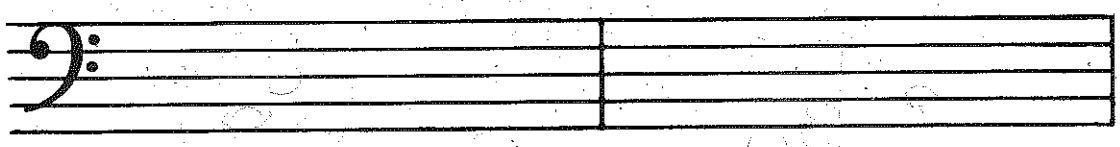
Scrambled Notes

33. Unscramble each group of letters to form a word. Draw notes for each word in the space provided. Use quarter, half, or whole notes.

1. AGB **2. ADB**



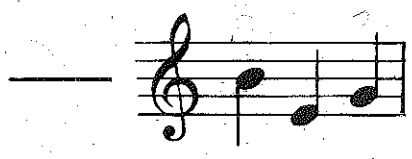
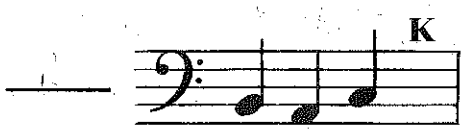
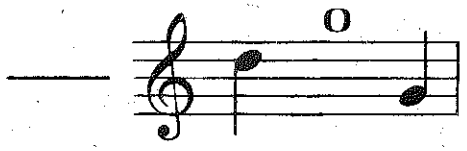
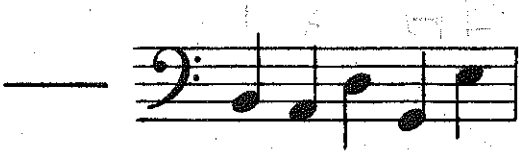
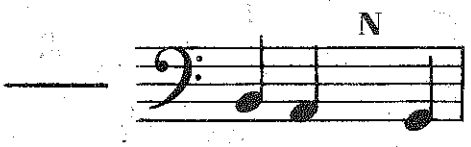
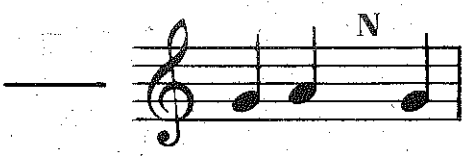
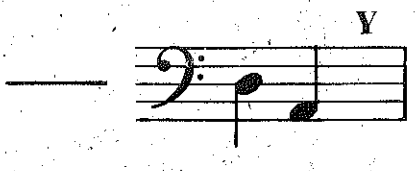
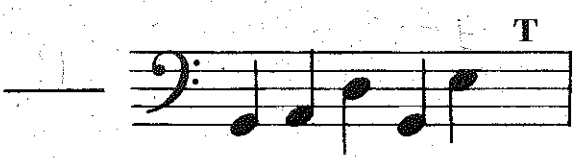
3. DDA **4. BAC**



Answers: 1. BAG or GAB 2. BAD or DAB 3. DAD or ADD 4. CAB

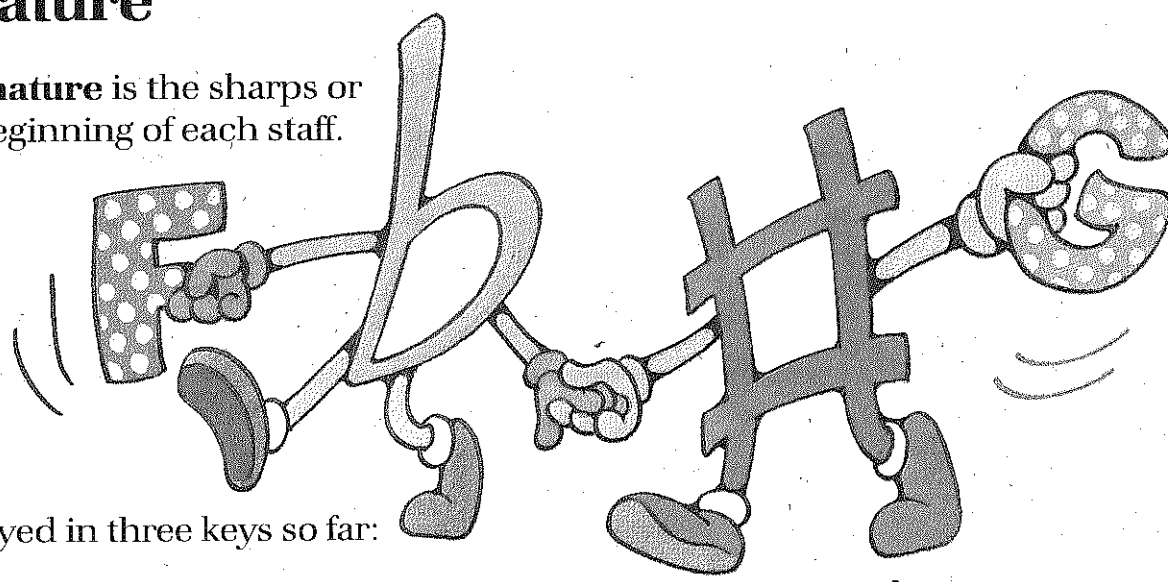
Matching Game

Write the correct matching answers from Column A in front of Column B. Play and name these notes on the piano.

A	B
1. BACK	
2. BEG	
3. BADGE	
4. BANG	
5. GANG	
6. DOG	
7. GEM	
8. BAGGAGE	
9. GADGET	
10. DAY	

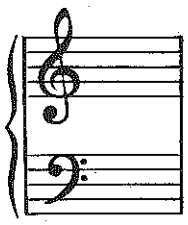
Key Signature

The **key signature** is the sharps or flats at the beginning of each staff.

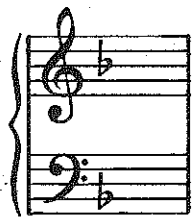


You have played in three keys so far:

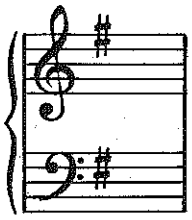
C Major
No sharps or flats



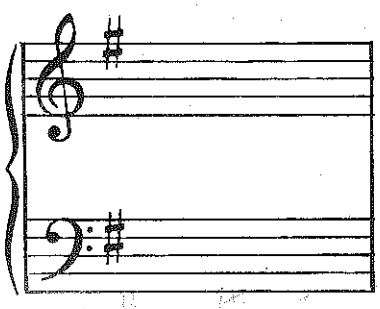
F Major
One flat



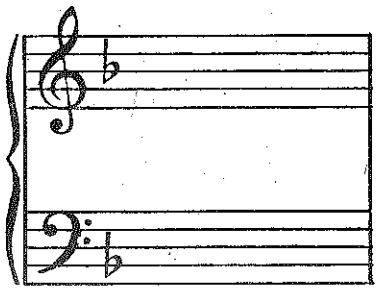
G Major
One sharp



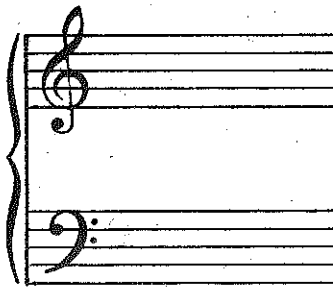
34. Write the names of these key signatures.



_____



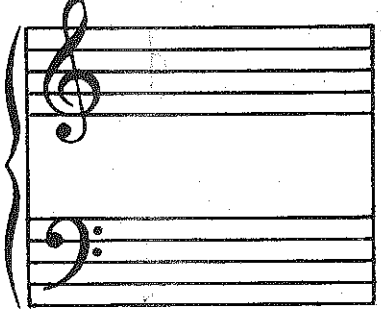
_____



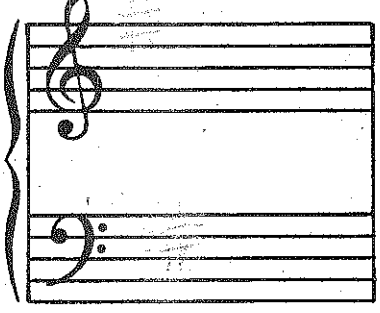
_____

35. Draw these key signatures in both clefs.

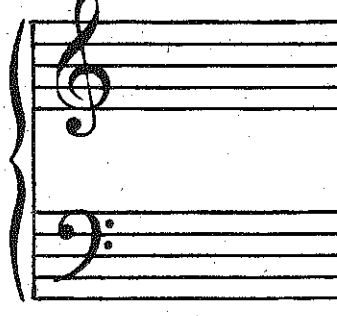
F Major



G Major



C Major



Accent Sign >

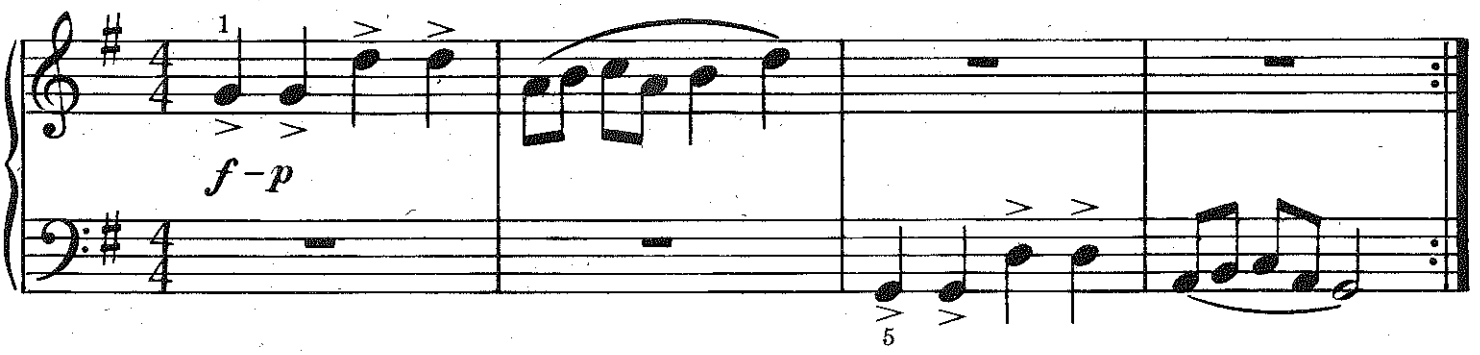
An **accent sign** means to play the note or notes louder.

36. Draw > signs **over** these notes.

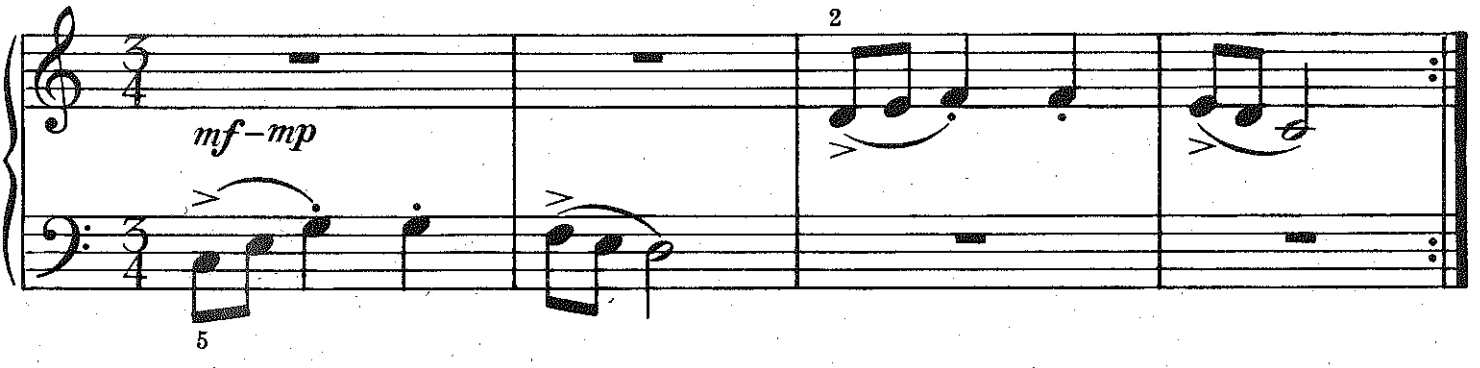
37. Draw > signs **under** these notes.

38. Write the name of the key signature for each line.
Play these melodies and accent the notes with an > sign.

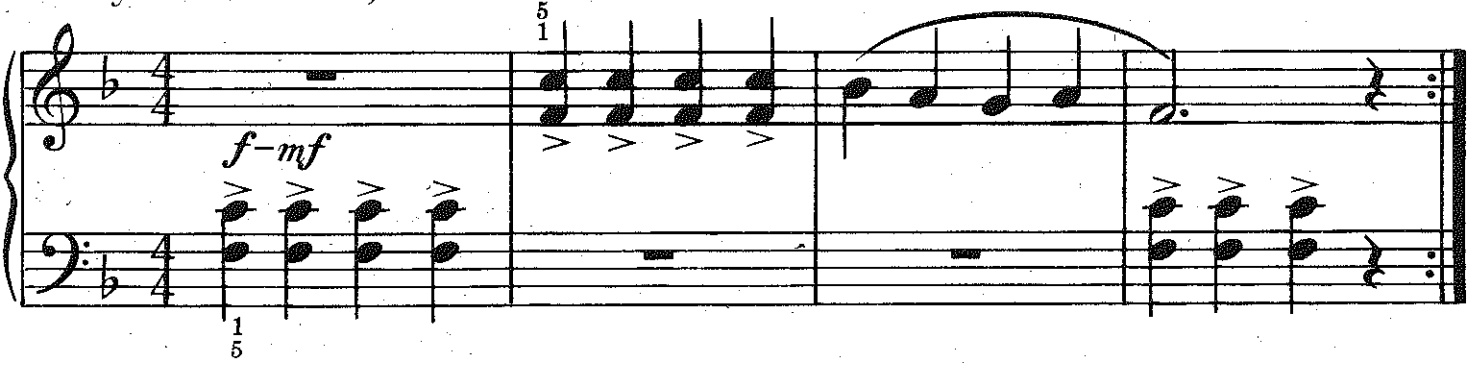
Key of G Major



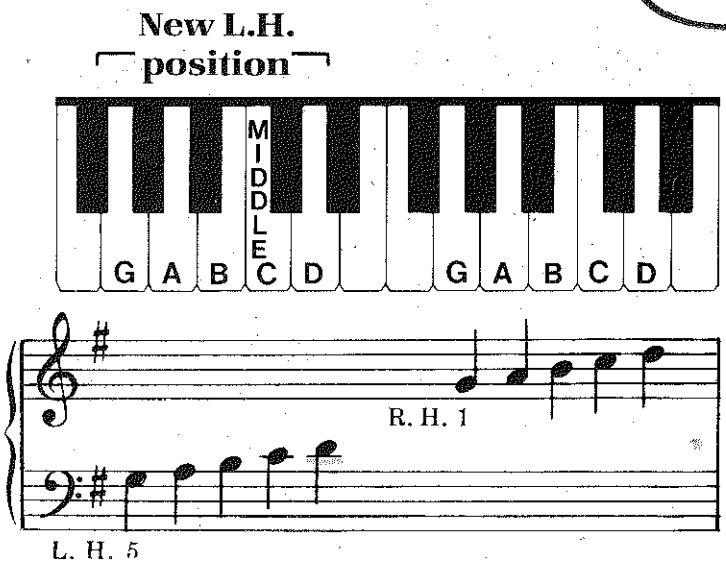
Key of C Major



Key of _____ Major

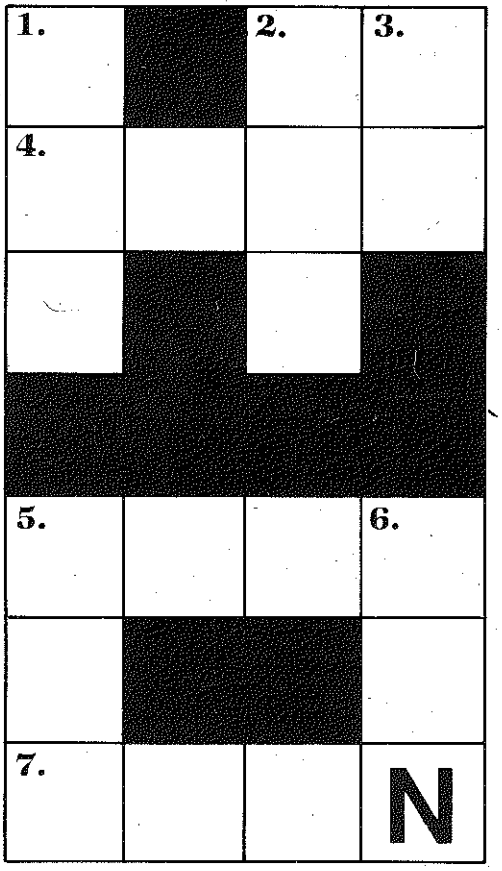


G Major Position

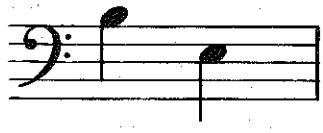


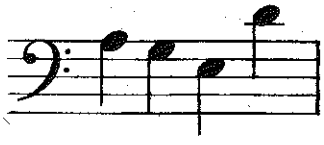
Note Puzzle

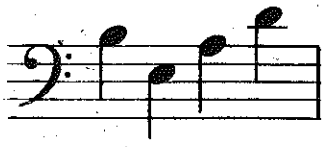
Write the names of the notes in the puzzle to spell words.

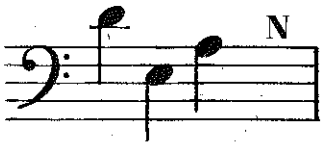


Across

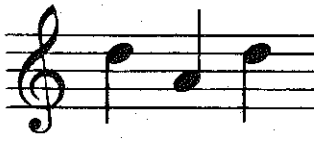
2. 

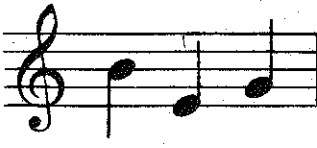
4. 

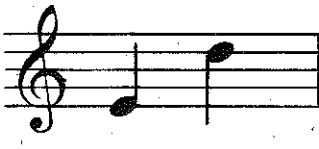
5. 

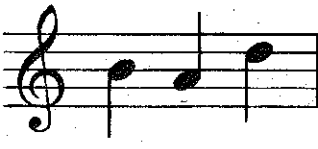
7. 

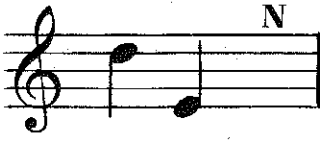
Down

1. 

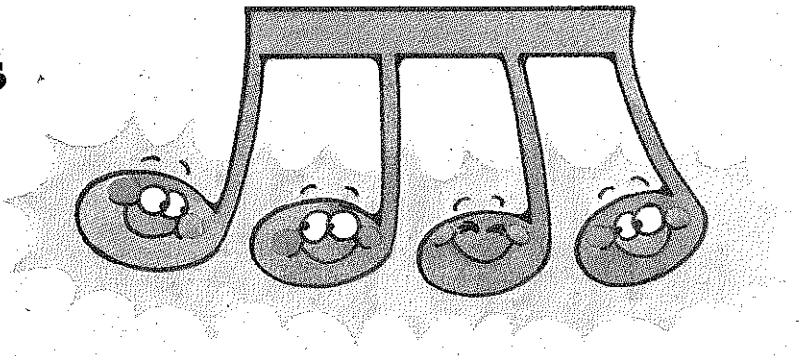
2. 

3. 

5. 

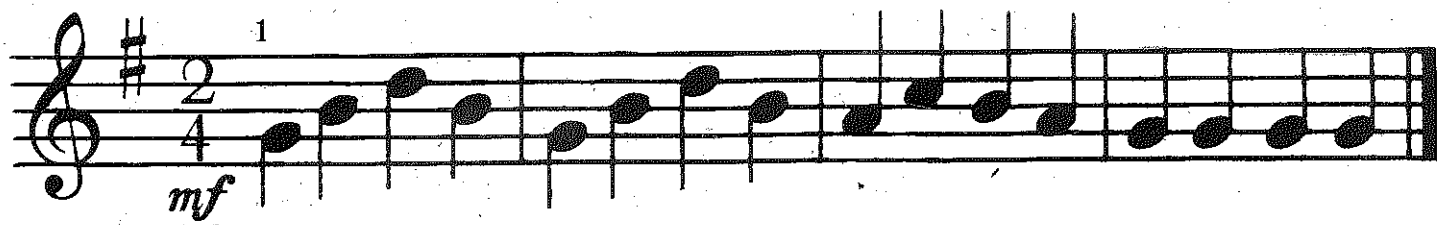
6. 

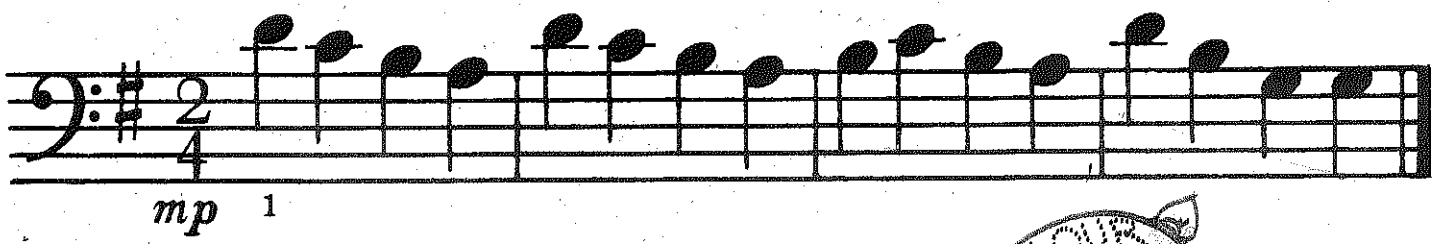
Beaming Eighth Notes



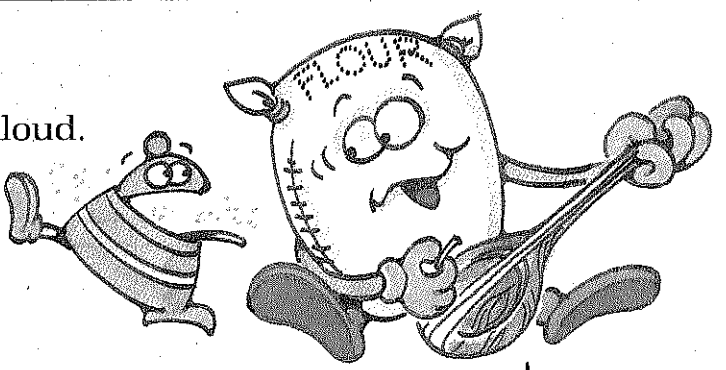
Several eighth notes may be connected by one **beam**.

39. Add one beam to the notes in each measure to form groups of four eighth notes. Play these melodies and name the notes aloud.



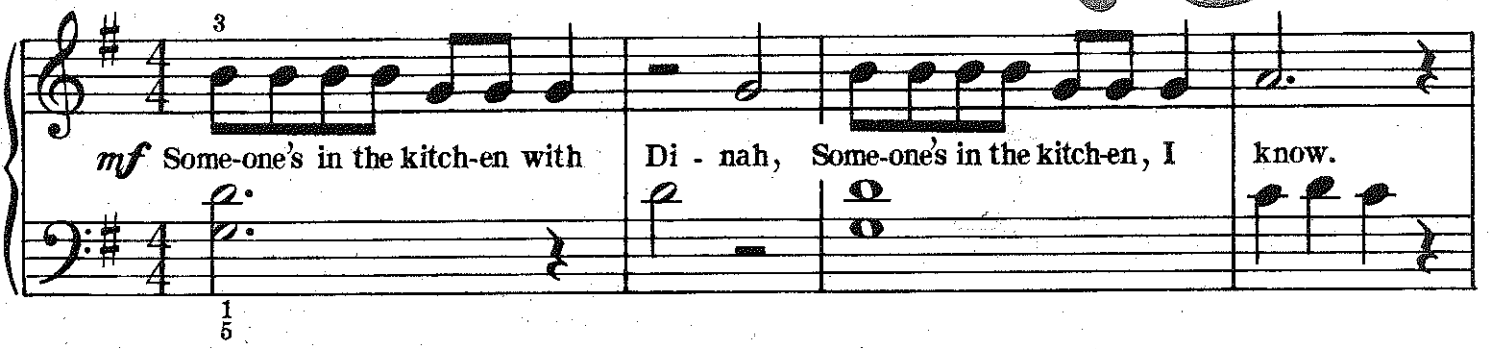


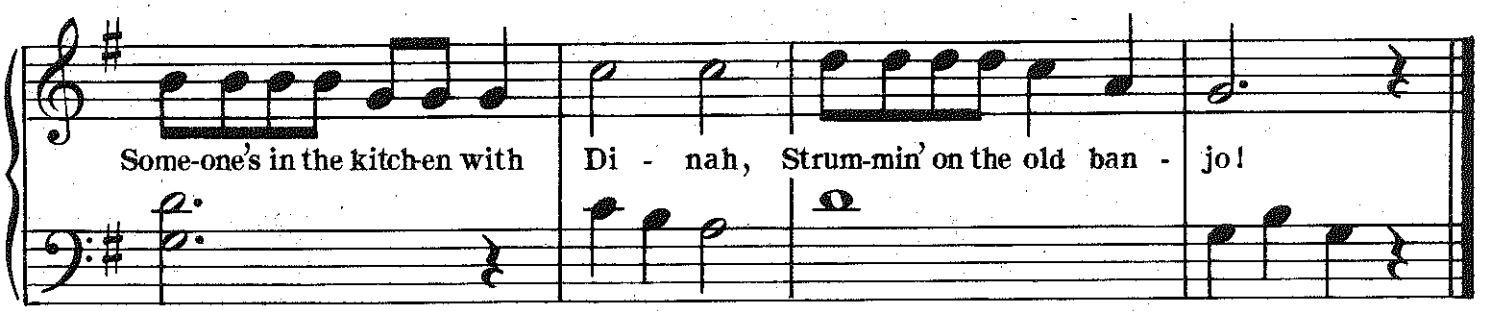
40. Play this song and count the rhythm aloud.



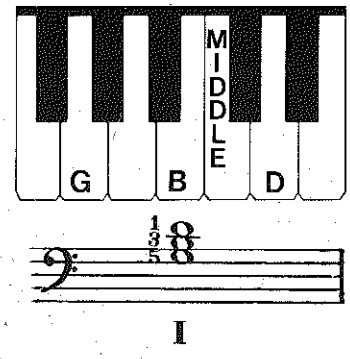
Who's in the Kitchen?

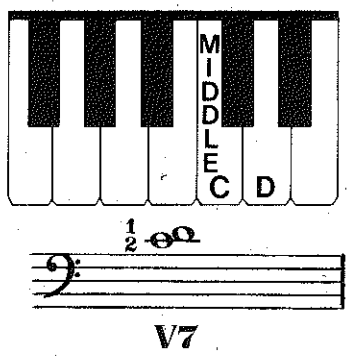
Moderato



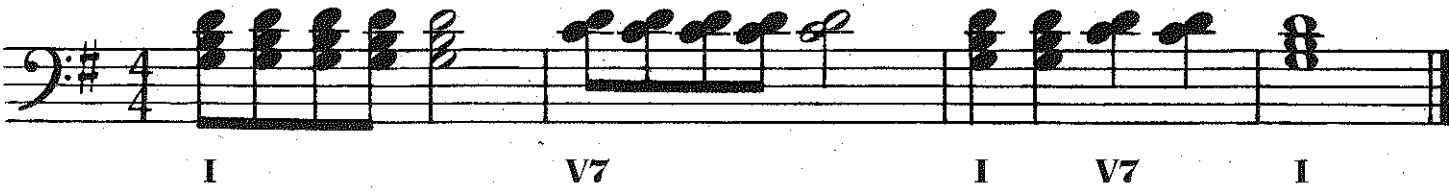


Accompaniment in G

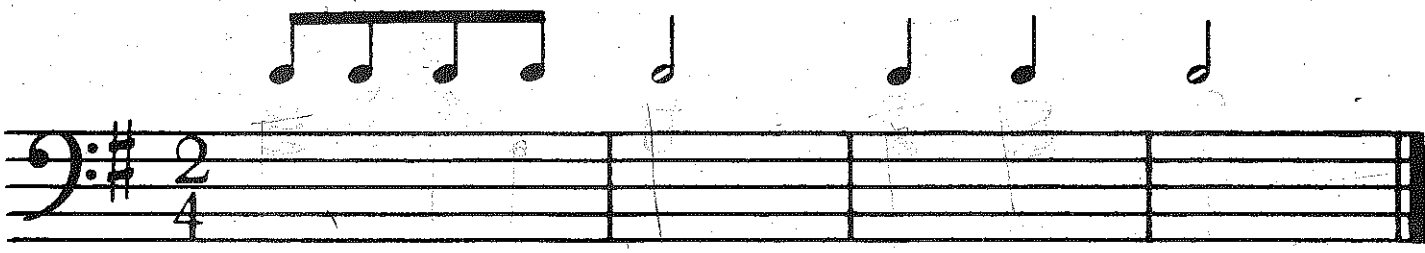




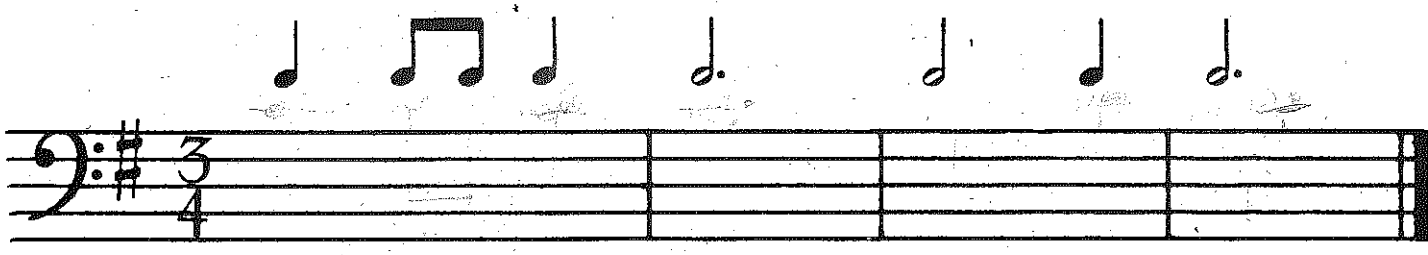
41. Play these I and V7 chords with your L.H. Count aloud while playing.



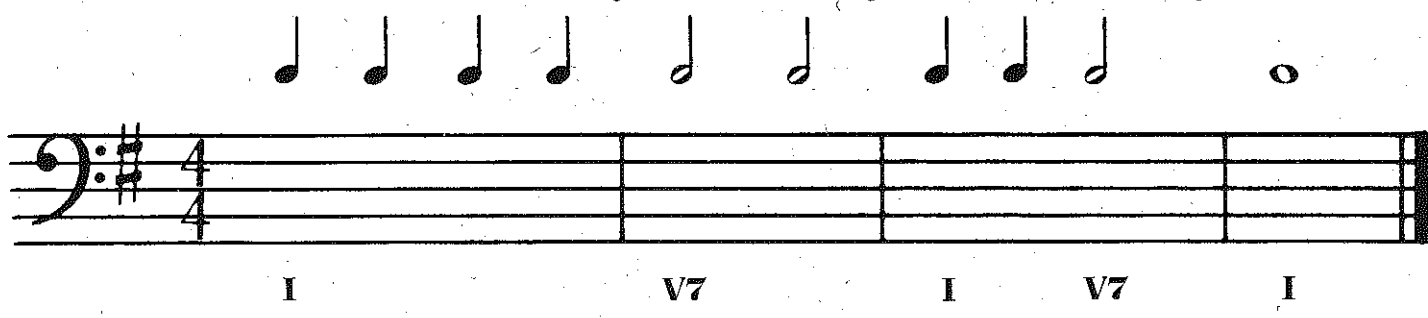
42. Draw I chords in the rhythm below. Play these chords with your L.H.



43. Draw V7 chords in the rhythm below. Play these chords with your L.H.



44. Draw I and V7 chords in the rhythm below. Play these chords with your L.H.



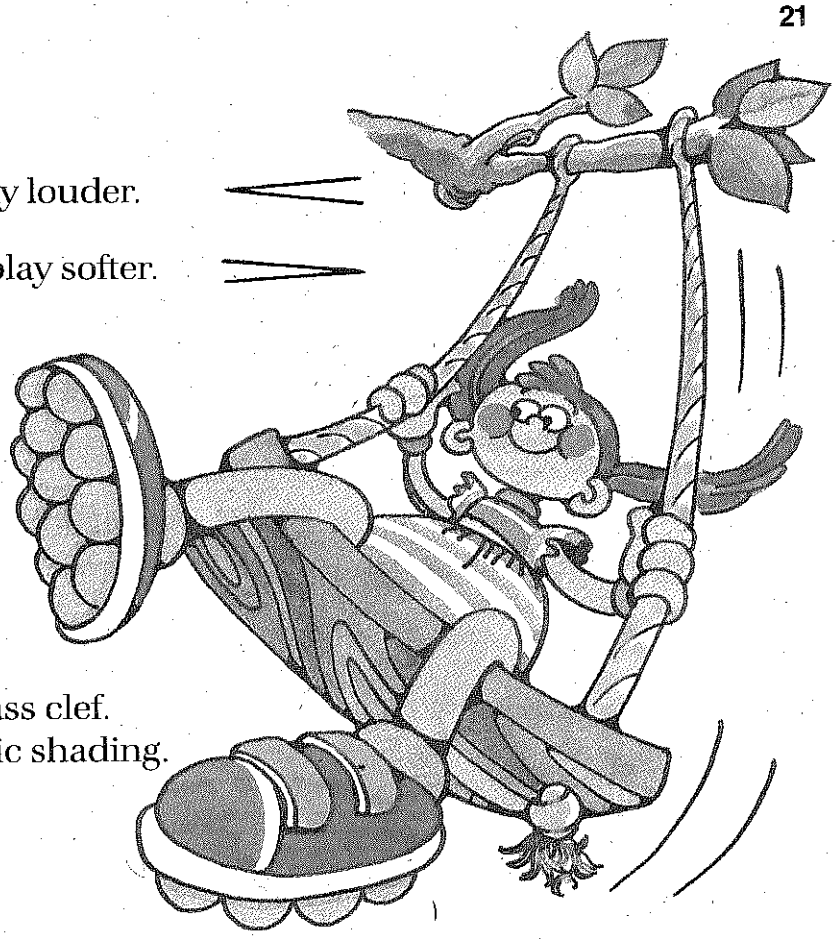
Dynamic Shading

Crescendo means to gradually play louder.

Diminuendo means to gradually play softer.

45. Draw four signs.

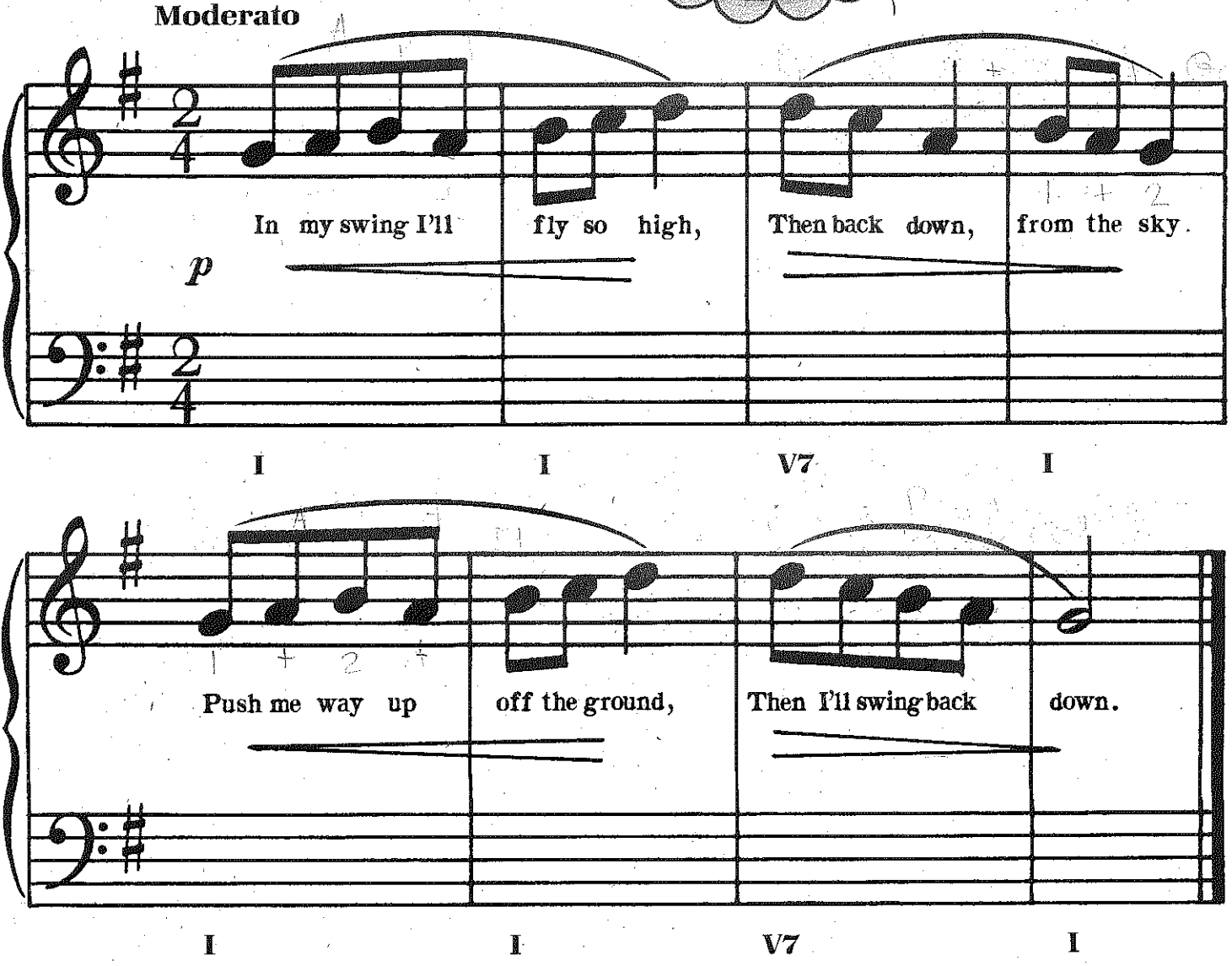
46. Draw four signs.



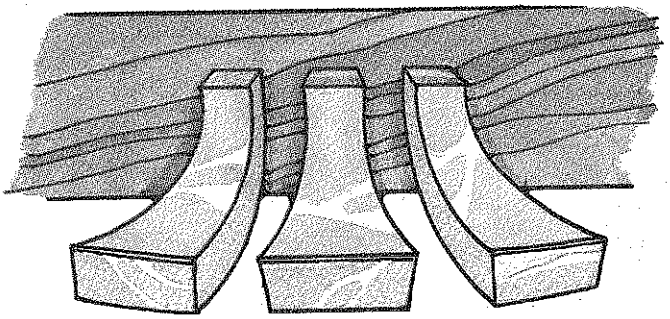
47. Draw I and V7 chords in the bass clef.
Play this song with the dynamic shading.

My Swing

Moderato



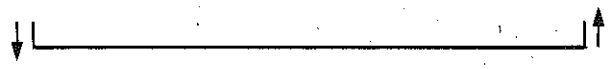
The Damper Pedal



Soft pedal **Sostenuto pedal** **Damper pedal**

The **damper pedal** is the pedal on the right.

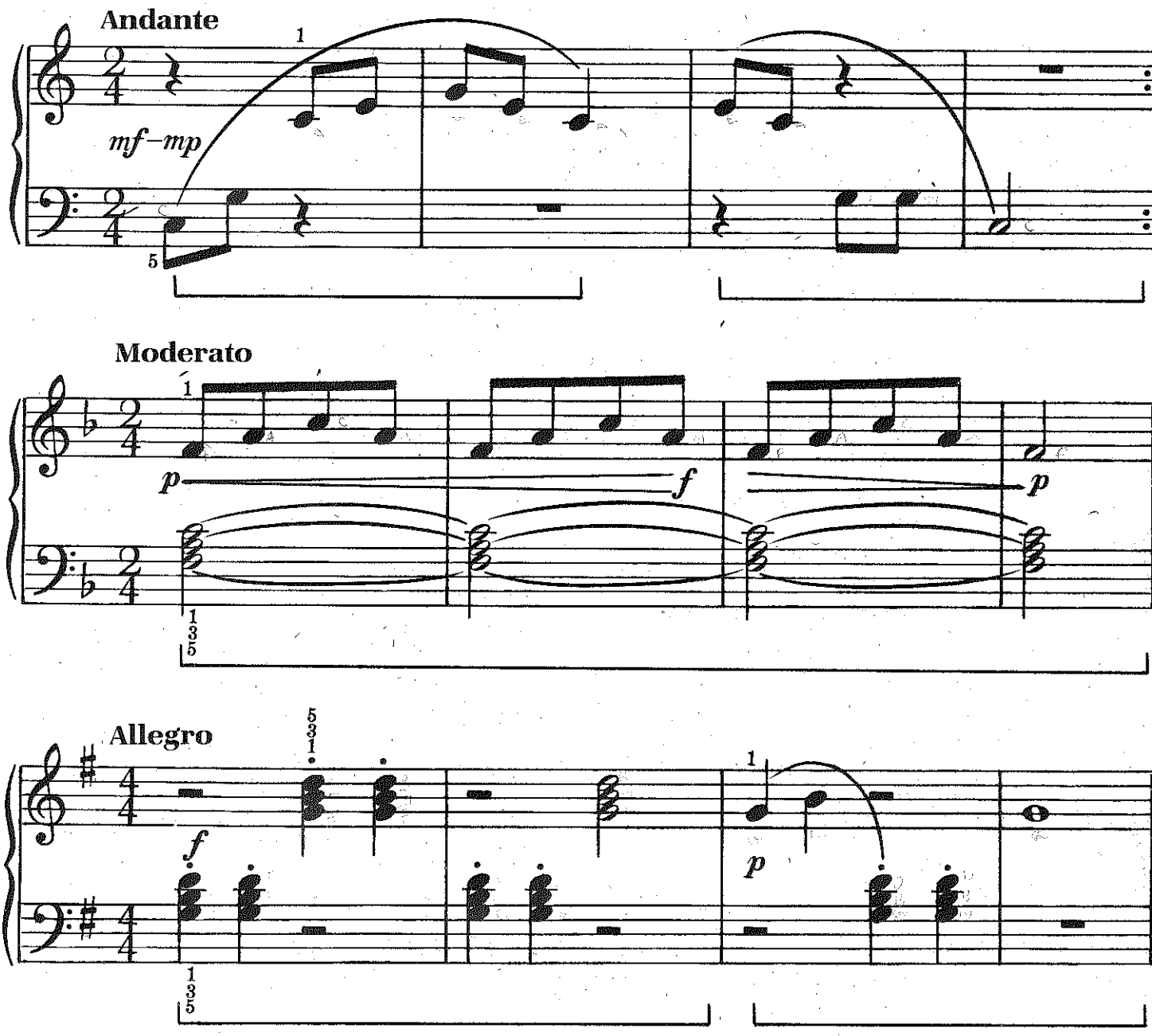
This sign shows when to press and lift the damper pedal.



Press Hold Lift

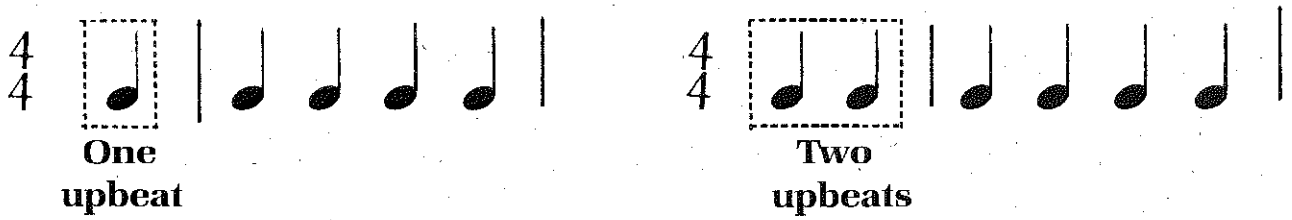
48. Draw two pedal signs.

49. Play these three lines with the damper pedal.

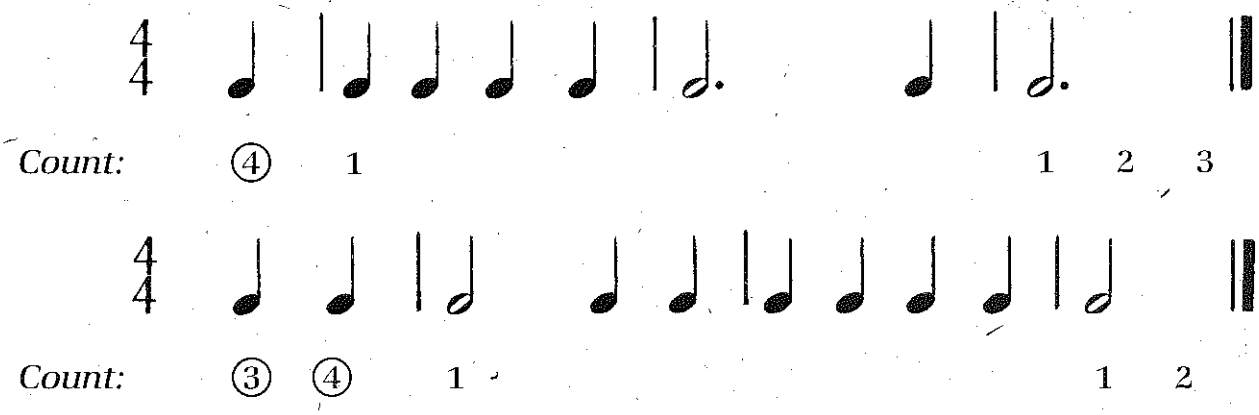


Upbeats

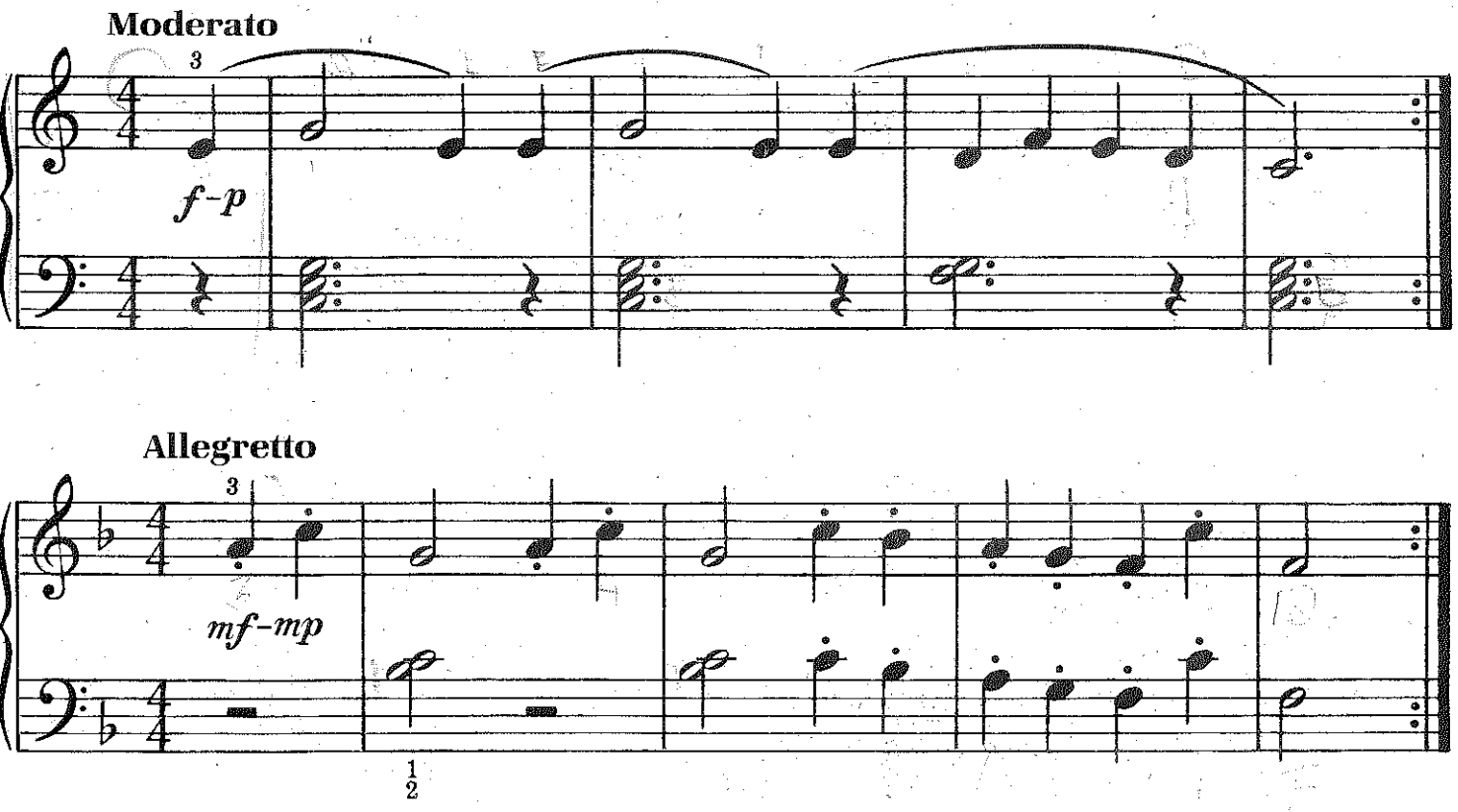
An **upbeat** is the note (or notes) that comes before the first full measure of a piece.



50. Clap and count this rhythm. Notice that the first measure in each line is **incomplete**. The counts that are missing in the upbeat measure are found in the last measure, which is also incomplete.



51. Play and count aloud.



Group 1 Keys (C, G, F)

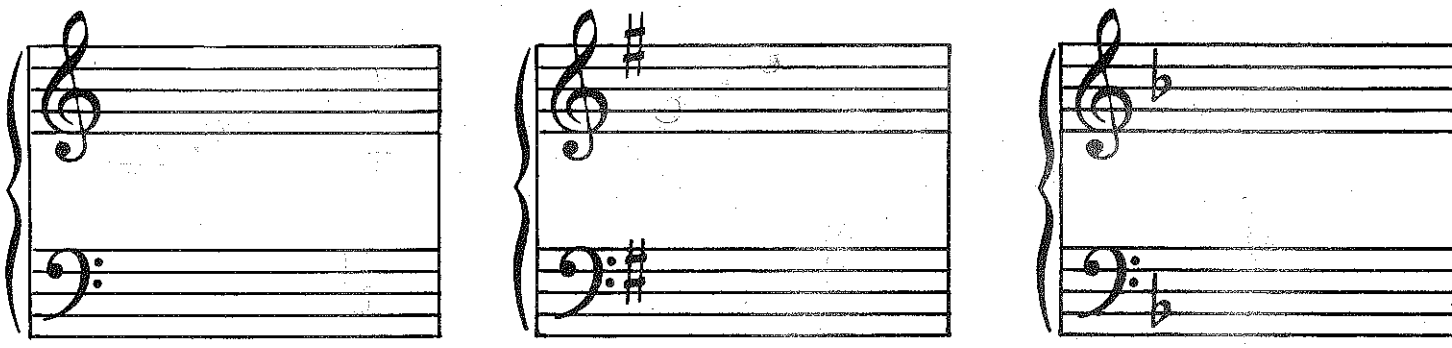
Each I chord in this group has only **white keys**.

52. Write the names of the keys on each keyboard to form I chords.

C Chord **G Chord** **F Chord**

53. Draw whole notes to form these I chords, then play them.

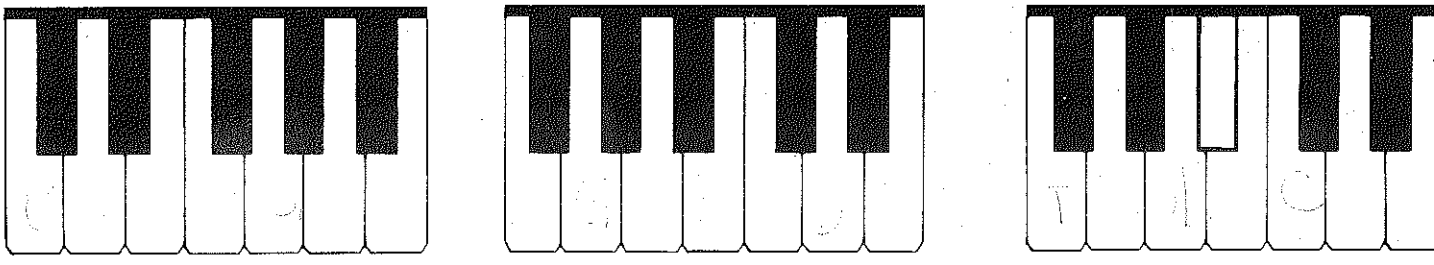
C Chord G Chord F Chord



The C and G 5-finger positions have only white keys.
The F 5-finger position has one black key.

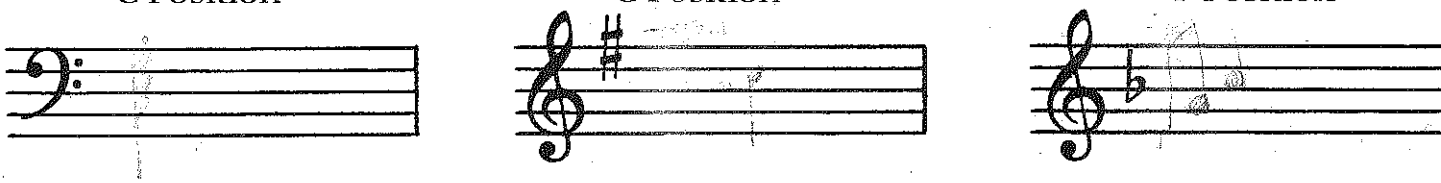
54. Write the names of the keys on each keyboard to form 5-finger positions, then play them.

C Position **G Position** **F Position**



55. Draw whole notes to form these 5-finger positions, then play them.

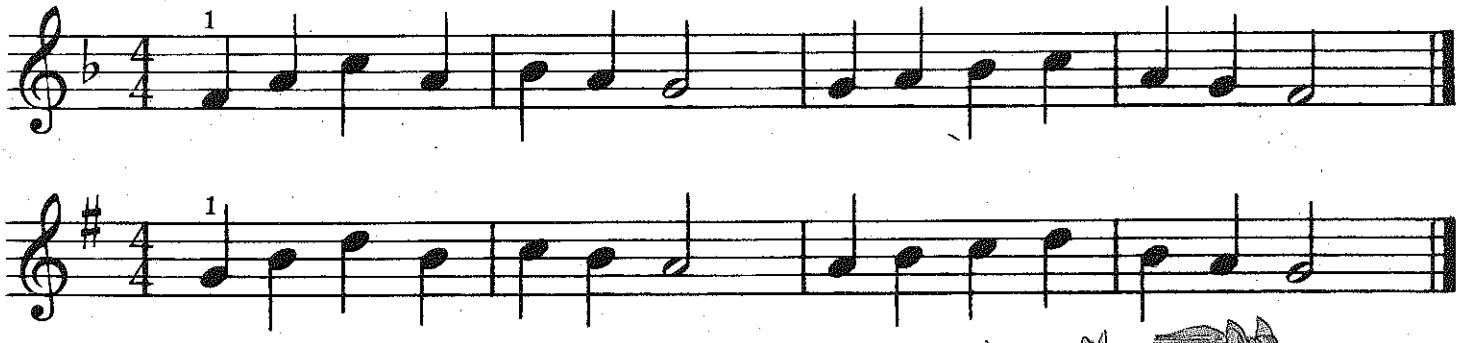
C Position G Position F Position



How to Transpose

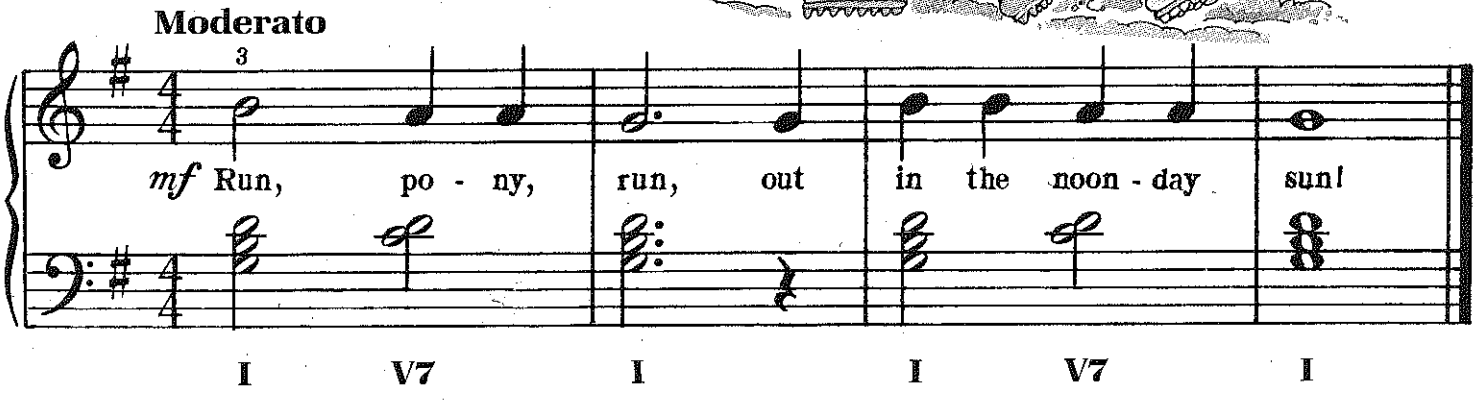
Transpose means to play in a different key than written.
Although different notes are used, the intervals between them are the same.

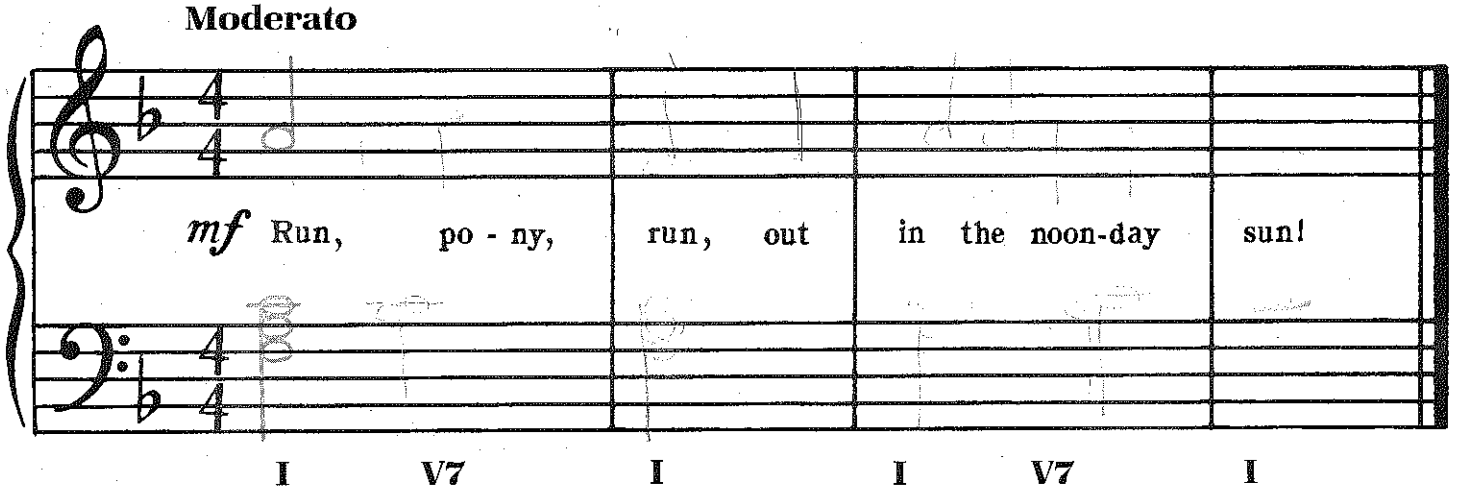
56. Play this melody first in F, then in G (the transposed key).



57. Play this song in G. Then transpose it to the key of F on the bottom staff.

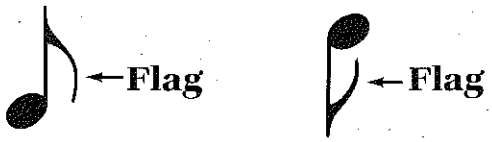
Run, Pony, Run!



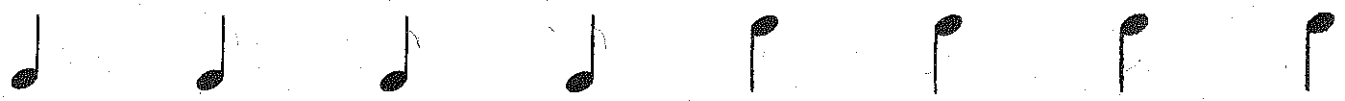


Eighth Notes and Rests

A single eighth note has a **flag**.

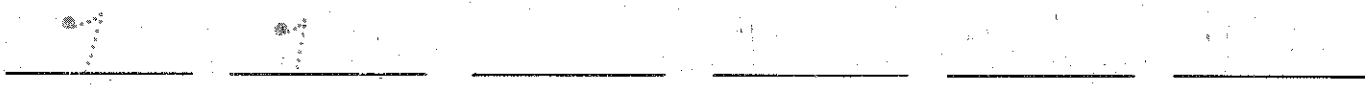


58. Add flags to these quarter notes to form single eighth notes.

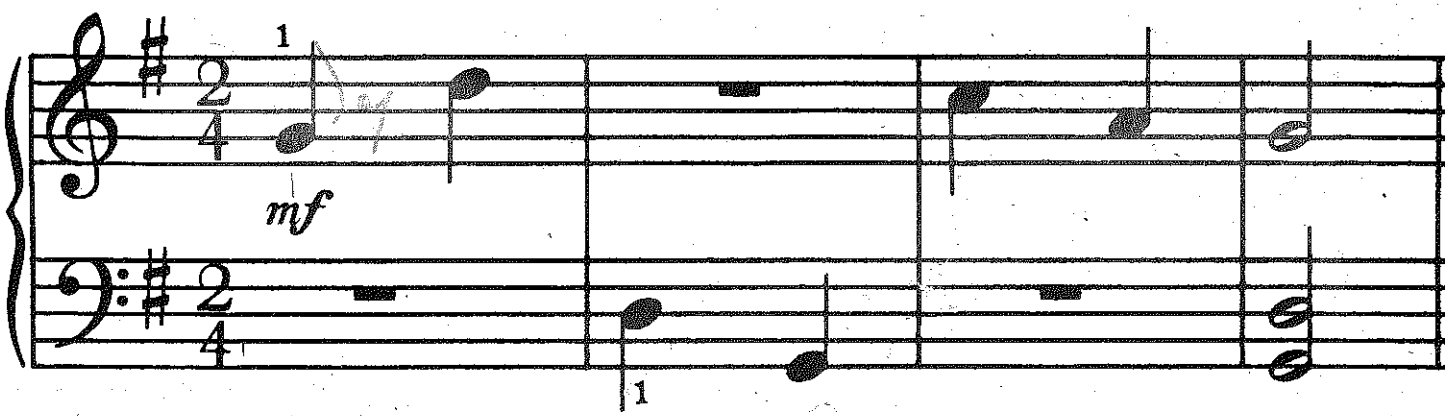


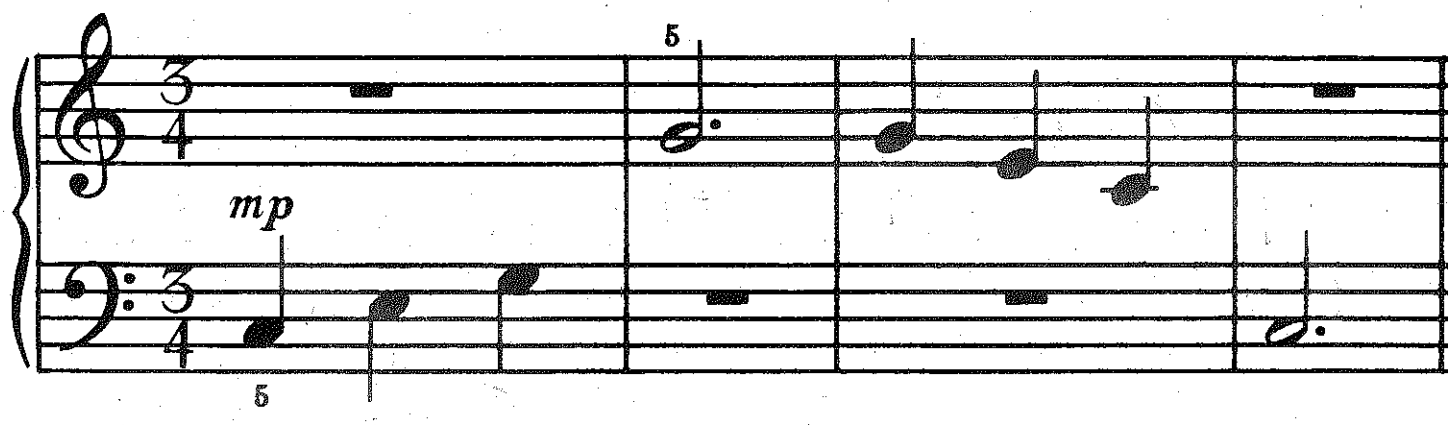
An eighth rest looks like this: 𝄾

59. Trace the first two eighth rests, then draw four more.



60. Add flags to these quarter notes to form single eighth notes. Draw eighth rests between, then play these two pieces.



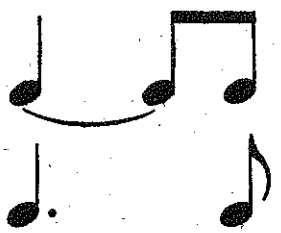


The Dotted Quarter Note

A **dot** after a note adds **half** the value of the note. ♩.

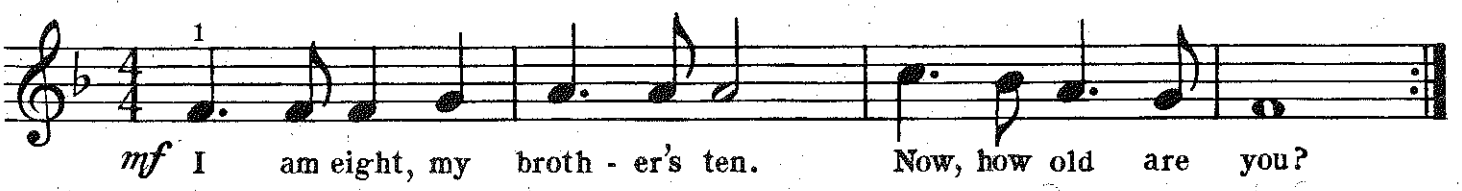
1 + ½ = 1½ beats

A dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note may be easily understood when seen as a tied note.



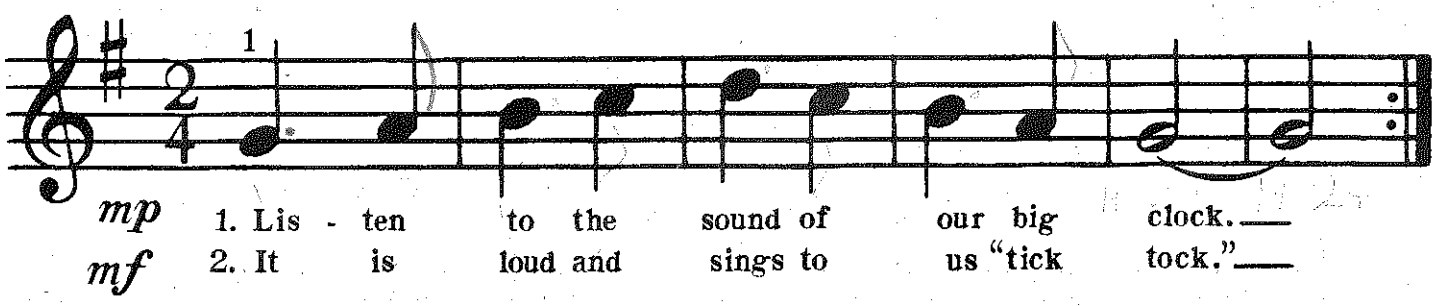
Count: 1 & 2 &

61. Clap and count the rhythm to this line. Play and count aloud, then transpose to G and C.

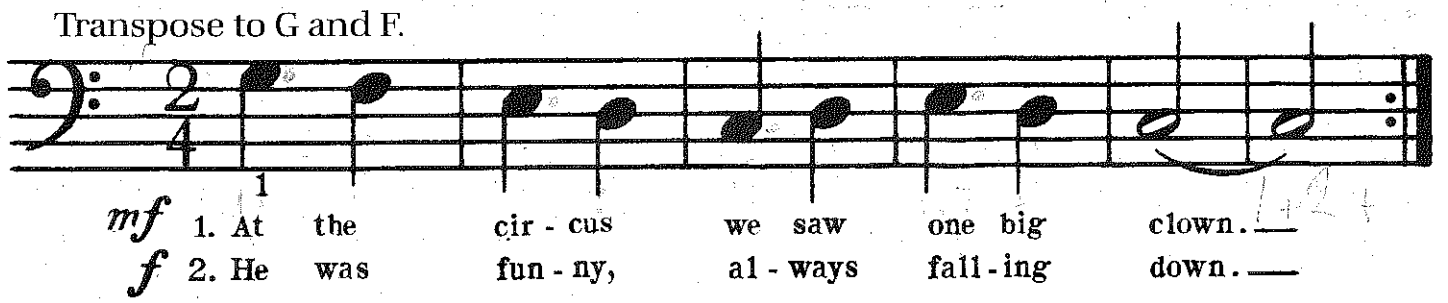


62. Draw a dot after the first quarter note in each measure. Add a flag to the second quarter note in each measure. Play and count aloud, then transpose to the keys given.

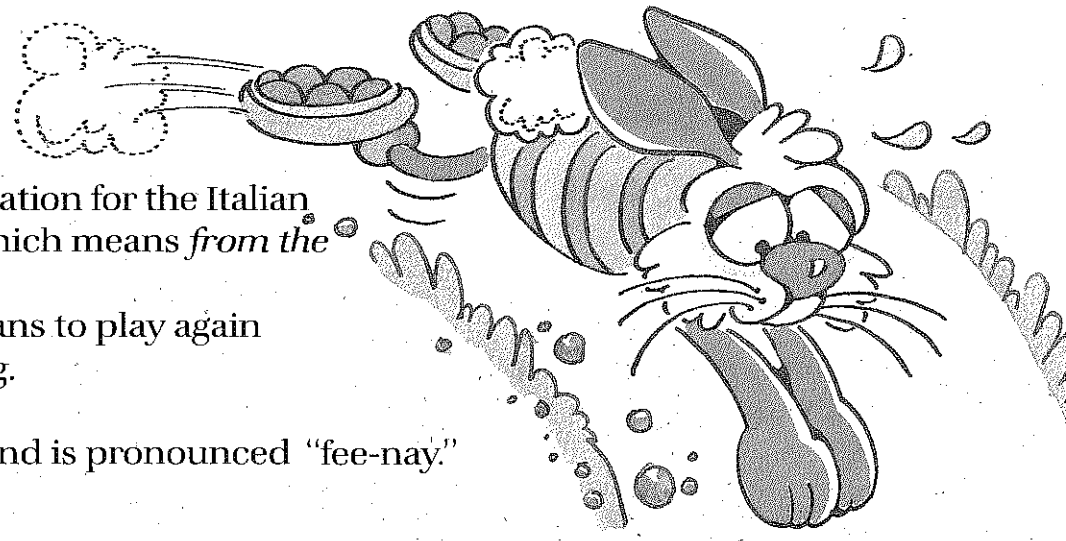
Transpose to F and C.



Transpose to G and F.



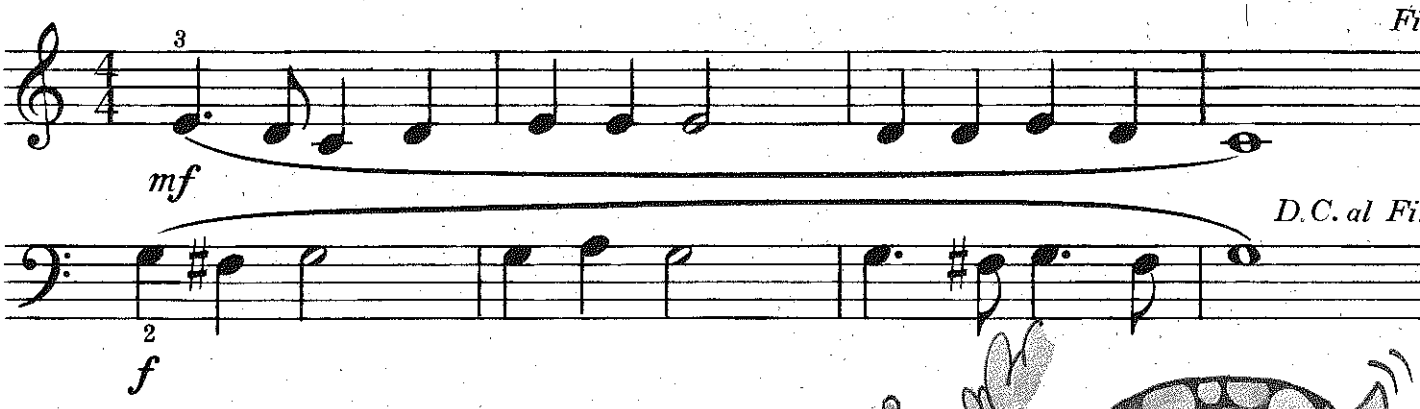
D.C. al Fine



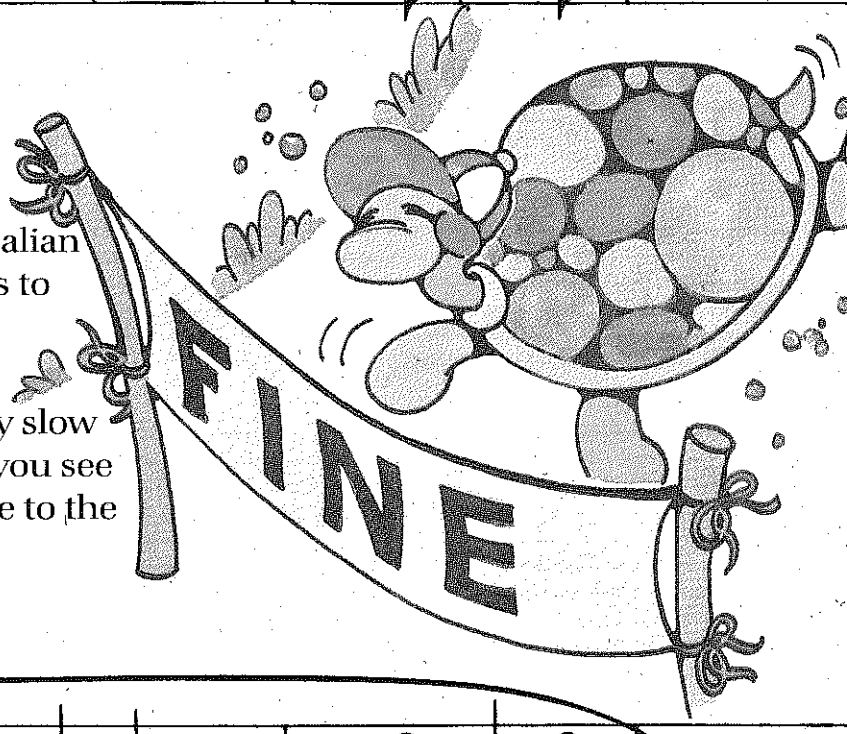
D.C. is the abbreviation for the Italian word **Da Capo**, which means *from the head.*
In music, D.C. means to play again *from the beginning.*

Fine means *end* and is pronounced "fee-nay."

63. Play both lines, then go back to the beginning and play to the *Fine*.



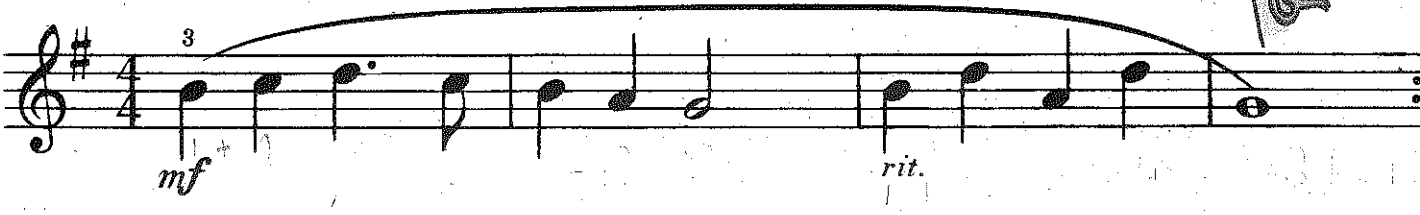
Ritardando



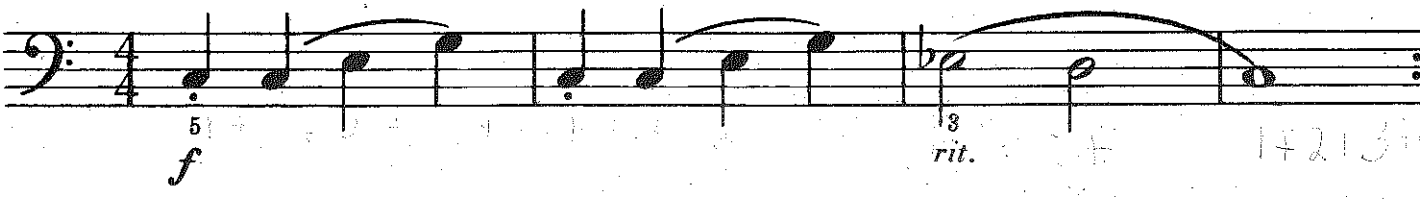
Rit. is the abbreviation for the Italian word **ritardando**, which means to gradually slow down.

64. Play each line and gradually slow down (little by little) when you see the *rit.* sign. Then transpose to the keys given.

Transpose to F and C.



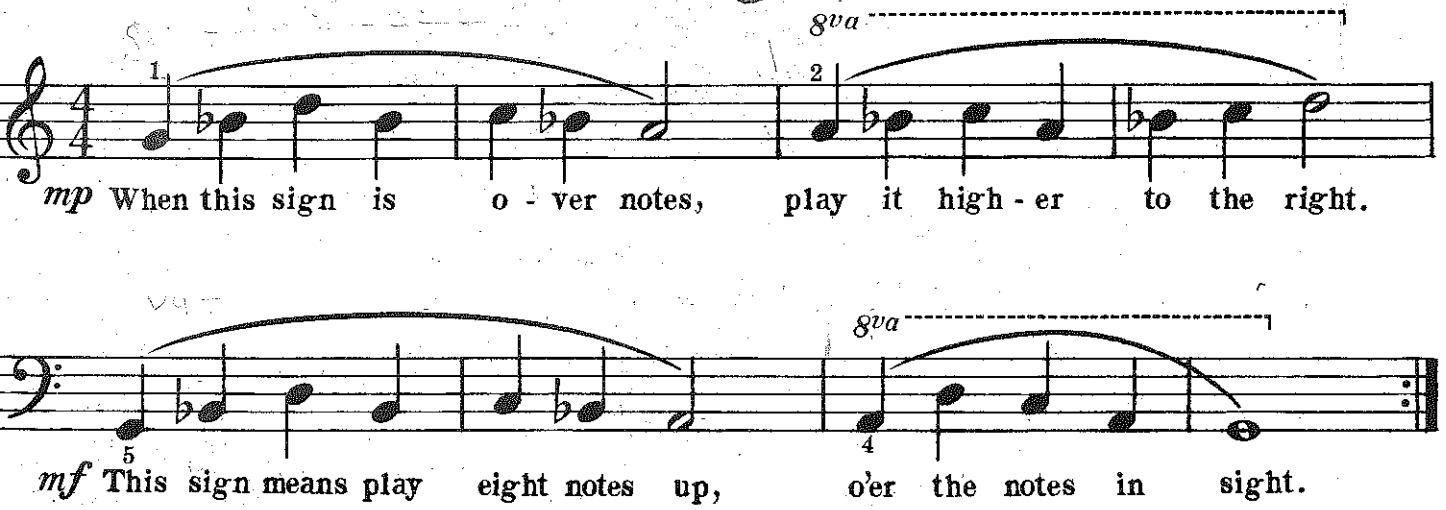
Transpose to F and G.



8va

This is an **octave sign**. When placed **over** notes, play one octave (eight notes) **higher** than written.

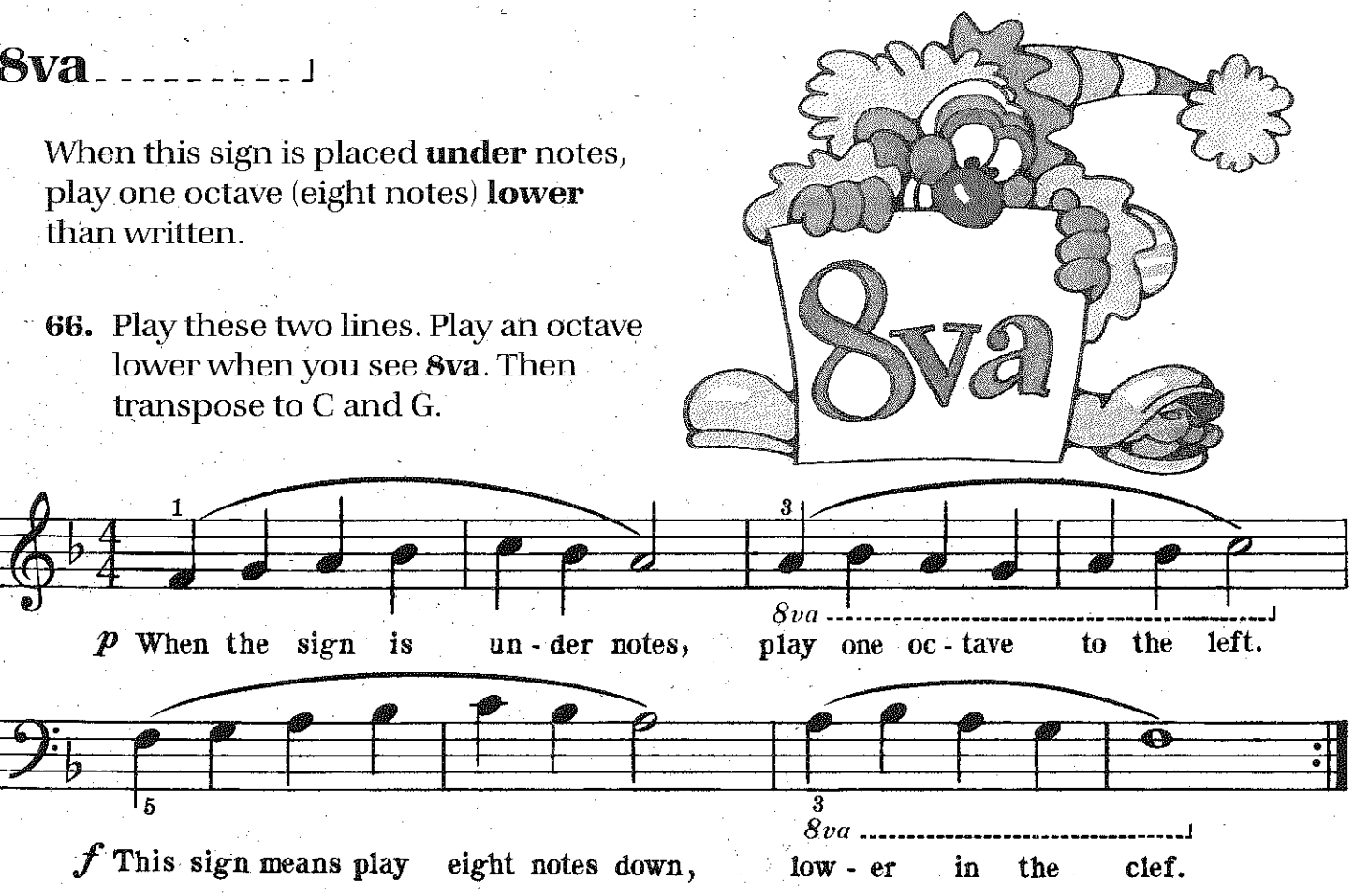
65. Play these two lines. Play an octave higher when you see **8va**. Then transpose to F and C.



8va

When this sign is placed **under** notes, play one octave (eight notes) **lower** than written.

66. Play these two lines. Play an octave lower when you see **8va**. Then transpose to C and G.



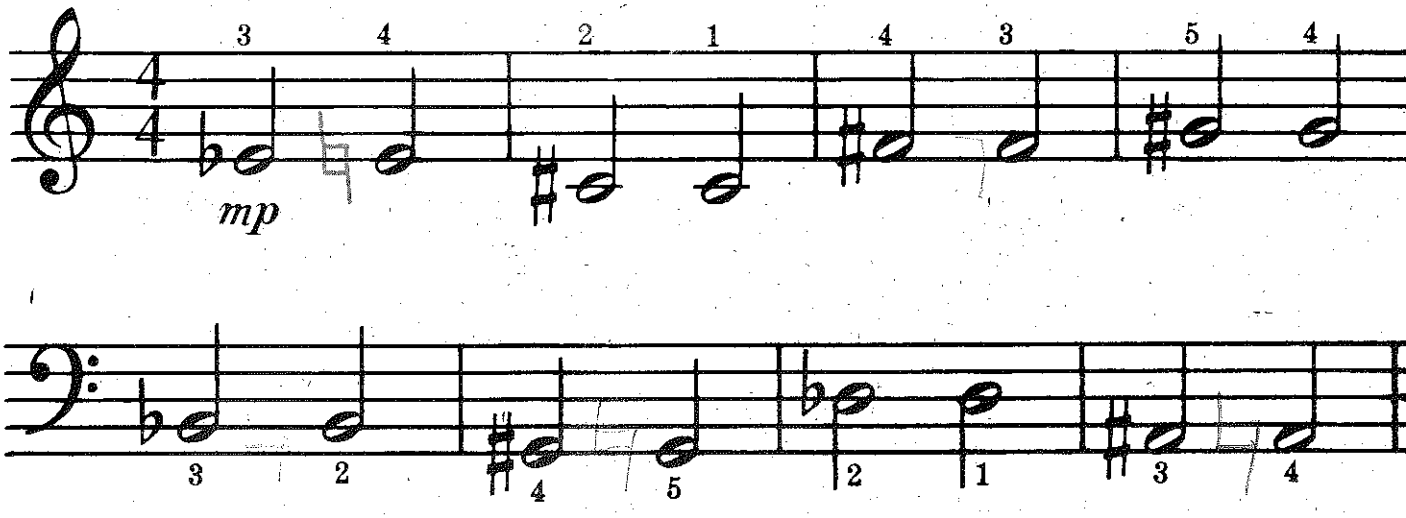
Natural Sign

The **natural sign** cancels a sharp or flat. This sign before a note means to play the natural (white) key.

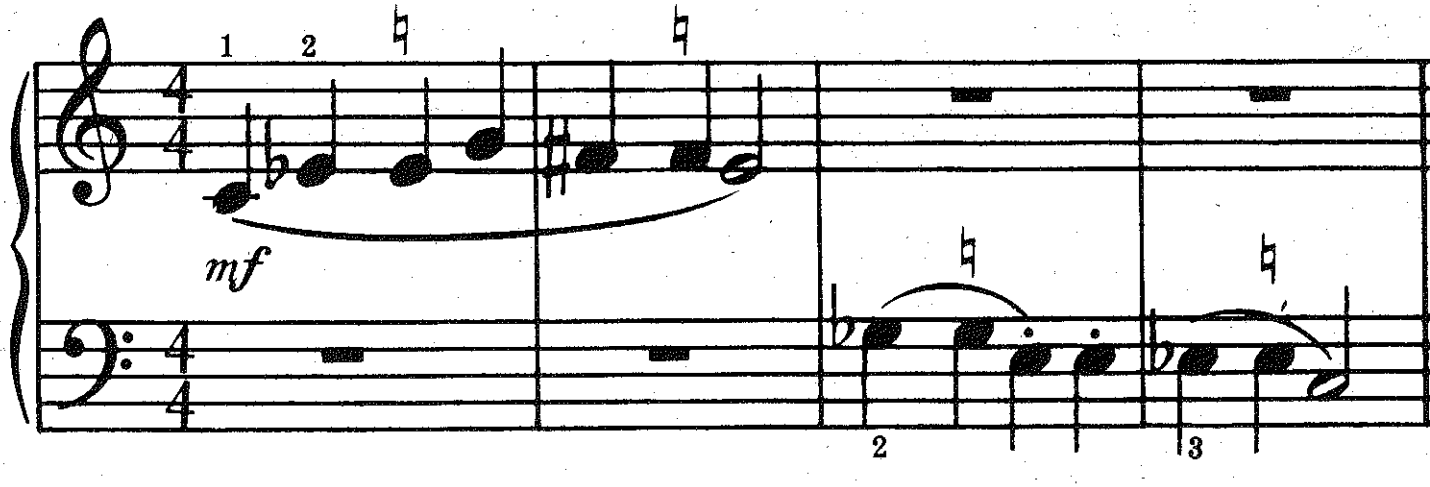
67. Trace the first two natural signs, then draw four more.
First draw ♮ . Then draw ♮ (an upside down ♮).

The "square" in the natural is placed on a **line** or in a **space**.

68. Draw a natural sign before the second note in each measure.
Play and name these notes.

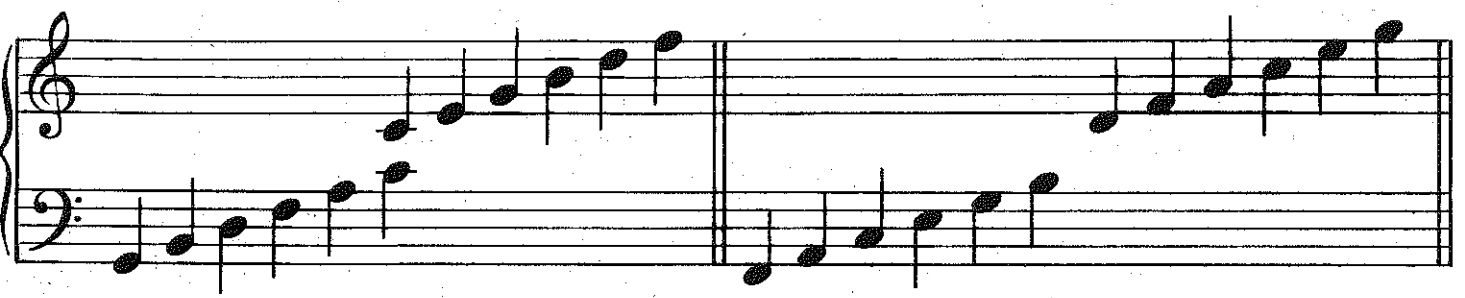


69. Draw a natural sign before each note with a ♮ over it.
Play and name these notes.

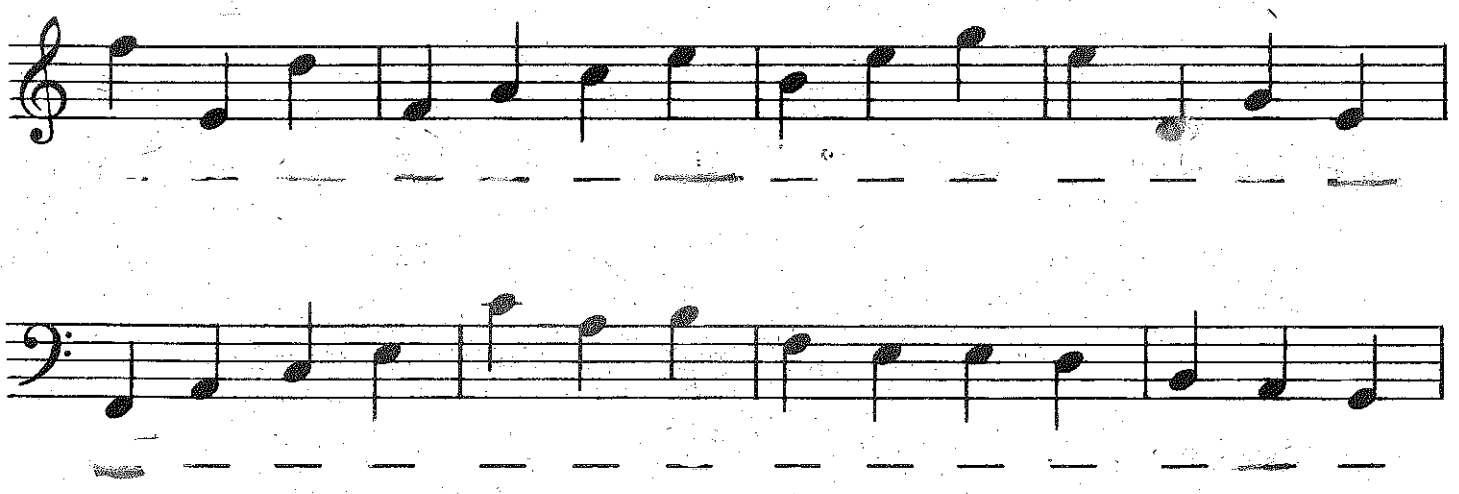


Note Review

Line notes **Space notes**

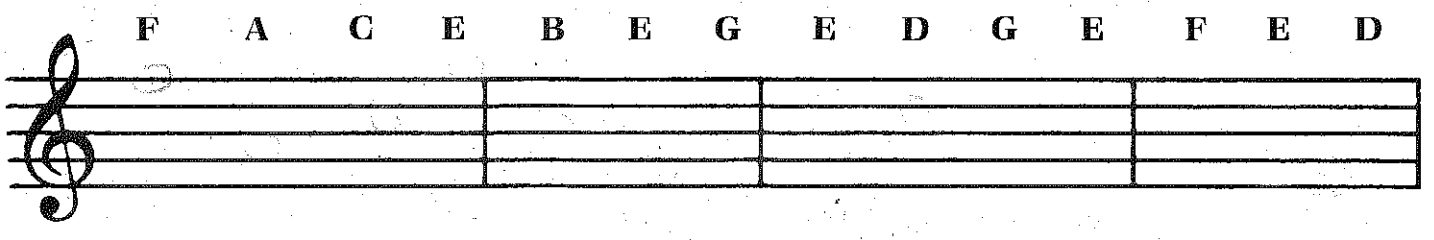


70. Write the names of these notes to spell words.

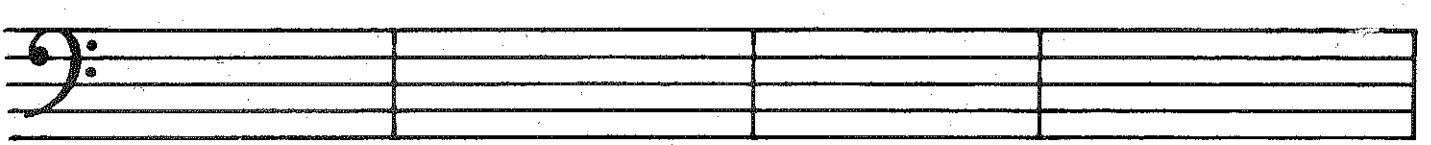


71. Draw notes below these letters. Try to use all the notes shown at the top. Use quarter notes.

F A C E B E G E D G E F E D



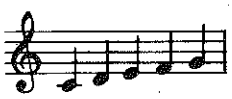
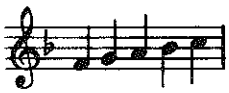
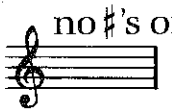
C A B F E E D B A G F A C E

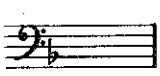
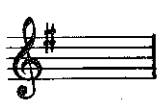
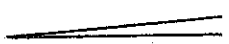
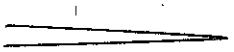
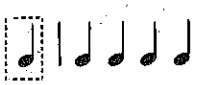


Matching Games

Write the number in front of the correct term.

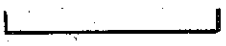
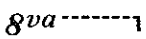
Game 1

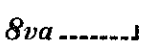
1. 
2.
3. 
4. andante
5. moderato
6. allegretto
7. allegro
8. mf
9. mp
10. 

11. 
12. 
13.
14. 
15. 
16. 

_____ F Major position (R.H.)
_____ C Major position (R.H.)
_____ G Major position (L.H.)
_____ fast
_____ slowly
_____ moderately
_____ moderately fast
_____ moderately soft
_____ moderately loud
_____ key of G Major
_____ key of C Major
_____ key of F Major
_____ upbeat
_____ get softer
_____ get louder
_____ accent sign

Game 2

1.
2.
3. harmonic interval
4. melodic interval
5.
6.
7.
8.
9. 
10. *rit.*
11.
12. *D. C. al Fine*
13. 

14. 

15. keys of C, G, F
16. play in a different key than written

_____ two notes played separately
_____ two notes played together
_____ single eighth note
_____ eighth rest
_____ pedal sign
_____ dotted quart note
_____ G Major cho
_____ C Major cho
_____ F Major cho
_____ natural sign
_____ repeat from t beginning ar play to the *F*
_____ play eight no higher
_____ play eight no lower
_____ group 1 keys
_____ transpose
_____ slow down